SUNDAY
June 28, 2026
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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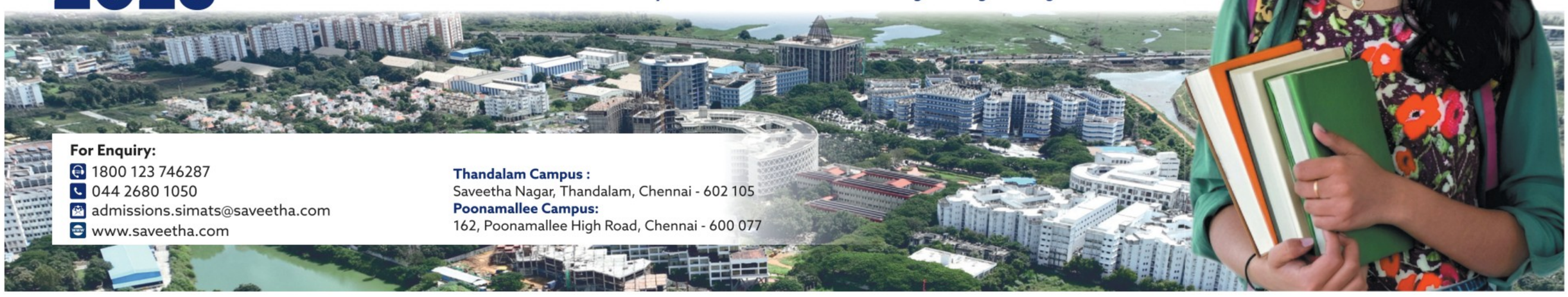

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ECOSYSTEM BALANCE

The silent guardians

Protecting the endangered Asiatic elephant indirectly helps safeguard forests as powerful carbon stores, study says

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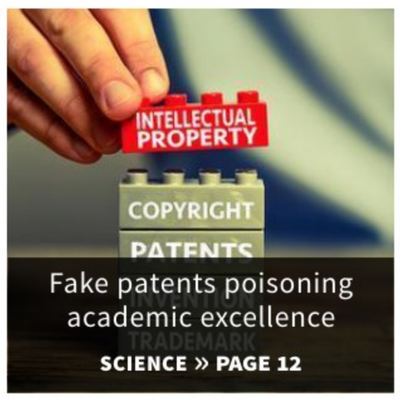

Fake patents poisoning academic excellence

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What do the amended FCRA Rules say?

FAQ » PAGE 13

India meets Australia in crucial contest

SPORT » PAGE 16

Ram Temple row: Trust general secretary quits

Trust promises fair investigation into the donation embezzlement case as its general secretary and another member submit resignation; it assures devotees that offerings made by them are safe

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Amid the uproar over the Ram Temple donation embezzlement case, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on Saturday announced that its general secretary Champat Rai and member Anil Mishra had submitted their resignations.

"At its next meeting, the trust will take a decision on their resignations," Trust treasurer Govind Dev Giri said in a statement on Saturday.

The statement comes a day after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) denied reports of Mr. Rai's resignation. Mr. Rai is also the vice-president of the VHP.

In its first public statement amid the controversy, the Trust, which administers the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, said it would ensure a fair investigation into the incident. "We are deeply pained, shocked, and extremely saddened by the incidents that have come to light in recent days at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. As agents of all Ram devotees and Ram sevaks serving the lord, we are committed to ensuring a fair investigation and restoring the confidence of devotees," the statement added.

The Ram temple Trust general secretary, Champat Rai, and other members are facing criticism over an embezzlement case. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Rai and other Trust members are facing criticism over the donation theft case in which eight people have been arrested on charges of embezzlement, criminal conspiracy, fraud and breach of trust.

In the statement, the Trust said silver bricks, jewellery, and other offerings that the devotees had personally handed over to its officials are "safe and fully accounted for".

"As regards the alleged embezzlement of money from the temple's donation boxes, an FIR has been filed, based on the interim report submitted by the Special Investigation Team. Legal proceedings are under way, truth will come out and the guilty will be punished," reads the statement.

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DISSOLUTION DEMAND
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Pesticides and Industrial Waste Render India's Water Unsafe to Drink
Lead Pollution Alarming: 69 Rivers in India Contaminated
MERCURY AT DANGEROUS LEVELS IN INDIA'S WATER BODIES
Plastic Pollution on the rise
ARSENIC DETECTED IN GROUNDWATER SOURCES
Elevated arsenic levels in groundwater sources are alarming. Such high levels of arsenic in India's groundwater pose significant health risks.
DID YOU KNOW
WATER SOURCES TODAY CONTAIN PESTICIDES,
LEAD, ARSENIC AND MERCURY?

NEARBY

DKS: Vertical development of city inevitable

BENGALURU
Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the government is considering the "vertical development" of Bengaluru as the city continues to witness rapid growth. » PAGE 2

Upset over breakup, man blows up car

TUMAKURU
A man, reportedly upset over his friend breaking up with him, allegedly abducted her and took her towards Ankola, during which he blew up their car on Saturday. » PAGE 4

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Iran says U.S. violated peace deal as both sides trade fire

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran on Saturday accused the U.S. of violating their deal to end the war, after Washington launched strikes on Iranian territory and Tehran responded with attacks on U.S. targets in the Gulf. The trading of fire, which came after Washington accused Tehran of attacking a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz, raised doubts about efforts to keep the crucial waterway open while both sides negotiate a final deal.

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said the latest American strikes, which targeted Iranian missile and drone storage sites and coastal radar positions, were a response to "unwarranted aggression against commercial shipping by Iranian forces" that "clearly violated the ceasefire". It described the latest strikes as "a powerful response" to the "attack on a commercial ship that was transiting the Strait of Hormuz". "Violence will be met with violence" if Iran carries out any further attacks, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance said.

Vessels seen in the Strait of Hormuz near Bandar Abbas in Iran following the signing of the deal with U.S. to end the war. REUTERS

Iran said "these brutal attacks... are a blatant violation" of the deal to end the war, which began with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February. Its Revolutionary Guards said they had struck U.S. sites in the Gulf region and that "if the aggression is repeated, our response will be broader".

Bahrain said it was targeted by several Iranian drones early on Saturday and accused Tehran of "sabotaging peace efforts".

On the U.S. strikes, Iranian media reported an explosion at a pier in the southern city of Sirik on Friday.

A SHIPWRECKED HEGEMON
» PAGE 14
'GRAVE BLUNDER'
» PAGE 15

Two BJP-ruled States question VB-G RAM G financial burden

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

At least three States, two of them with BJP-led governments, have raised concerns over the increased financial burden on them under the new rural employment programme, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), which comes into effect on July 1.

Under the scheme, a majority of the States have to bear 40% of the total expenditure, in contrast to its predecessor legislation, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Under MGNREGA, the Centre bore 100% of the wage bill and the States had to pay only a part of the material bill, which accounted for only 10% of the total budget.

As per a Right to Information reply, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh – both ruled by the BJP – and Jharkhand have explicitly asked for a reconsideration of the funding pattern with analysis showing that the 40% share of interim allocation under the scheme will be inadequate to keep the promise of 125 work days.

Budget concern

States are required to bear **40% of the total expenditure** under the VB-G RAM G scheme

	Current share*	For 125 days of work
Bihar	₹4,477 cr.	₹15,939 cr.
M.P.	₹4,168 cr.	₹20,037 cr.
Jharkhand	₹1,804 cr.	₹9,293 cr.

The new scheme is set to come into effect on July 1

*As per interim fund allocation

STATES SEEK REVIEW
» PAGE 9

Maharashtra TET put off

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Saturday postponed the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) 2026 over allegations of a "paper leak". Around six lakh candidates were expected to appear for the examination on Sunday.

"This decision was taken to make the examination transparent," the government stated in a press release. The new date for the examination will be announced later.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Consuming water containing these deadly contaminants can cause serious illnesses, even cancer!

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*As per CGWB Report, 2025.

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Generational craft: A craftsman heating a *khukuri* knife in a furnace before shaping it by hand in Patan, Nepal. The skills have been passed down through generations.

Precise detailing: A blacksmith shapes a red-hot *khukuri* blade with a hammer during the traditional forging process at a workshop.

Final touches: The knife is sharpened on a machine during the finishing process in a traditional workshop.

Mark of pride: Nepali Army personnel place their *khukuris* against their chests as a mark of respect before beginning a drill. The *khukuri* continues to play an important part in military training.

Khukuri: a symbol of courage and loyalty

Once used by the Gorkha soldiers to fight the British Army, the *khukuri* knife's uses have transformed over time according to the needs of the Nepali people, who continue to use it extensively in combat as well as in their homes

Prabhat Khanal

The *khukuri* knife is an iconic symbol of the Gorkha military, originally from Nepal, and is closely associated with the Gorkha soldier, symbolising strength, courage, bravery and loyalty.

A typical *khukuri* blade has a distinctive curved shape, and a hard blade, measuring 16 to 18 inches, can be used as both a weapon during combat and a tool in Nepal. *Khukuris* are forged from spring steel with a notch at the end of the blade, designed so that blood and sap drip off the knife instead of seeping onto the hardwood handle.

According to the Nepal Army, after 1744, the *khukuri* worn by the Gorkha soldiers who fought under the leadership of Prithvi Narayan Shah, who was the king of the Gorkha kingdom, in the Nepal Unification Campaign, made a significant contribution to the creation of modern Nepal.

When Britain initially encountered Gorkhas in the mountains of Nepal in 1814, the Gorkhas fought so fiercely and admirably with their *khukuris*. After that, the *khukuri* became the symbol of courage, bravery, and warfare skills of the Gorkha soldier, and they were recruited into the British Army. Now, the Indian Army currently fields seven active Gorkha Rifles regiments and the British Army has one primary Gorkha infantry regiment, The Royal Gorkha Rifles (RGR).

The Nepal Army uses the *khukuri* as a combat weapon, a survival tool in field operations, and an important part of military training. It is also carried during parades and ceremonial events, cultural events, symbolising the courage, tradition, and identity of Nepali soldiers.

Though the *khukuri* is best known as a ruthless combat weapon, the knife has several other uses. Gorkhas can use their *khukuris* to chop or carve wood, cut meat and vegetables, dig, and hunt wild animals.

The act of sharpening a *khukuri* is a ritualistic process, symbolising the soldier's commitment to duty and honour. People of Nepal worship the *khukuri* during various festivals.

Although the *khukuri* has undergone some changes in its appearance from ancient times to the modern era, its importance, respect, and identity have not diminished.

Firm grip: A man demonstrating the proper handling of a handcrafted *khukuri* knife in a factory, showcasing its precision, balance, and readiness for action.

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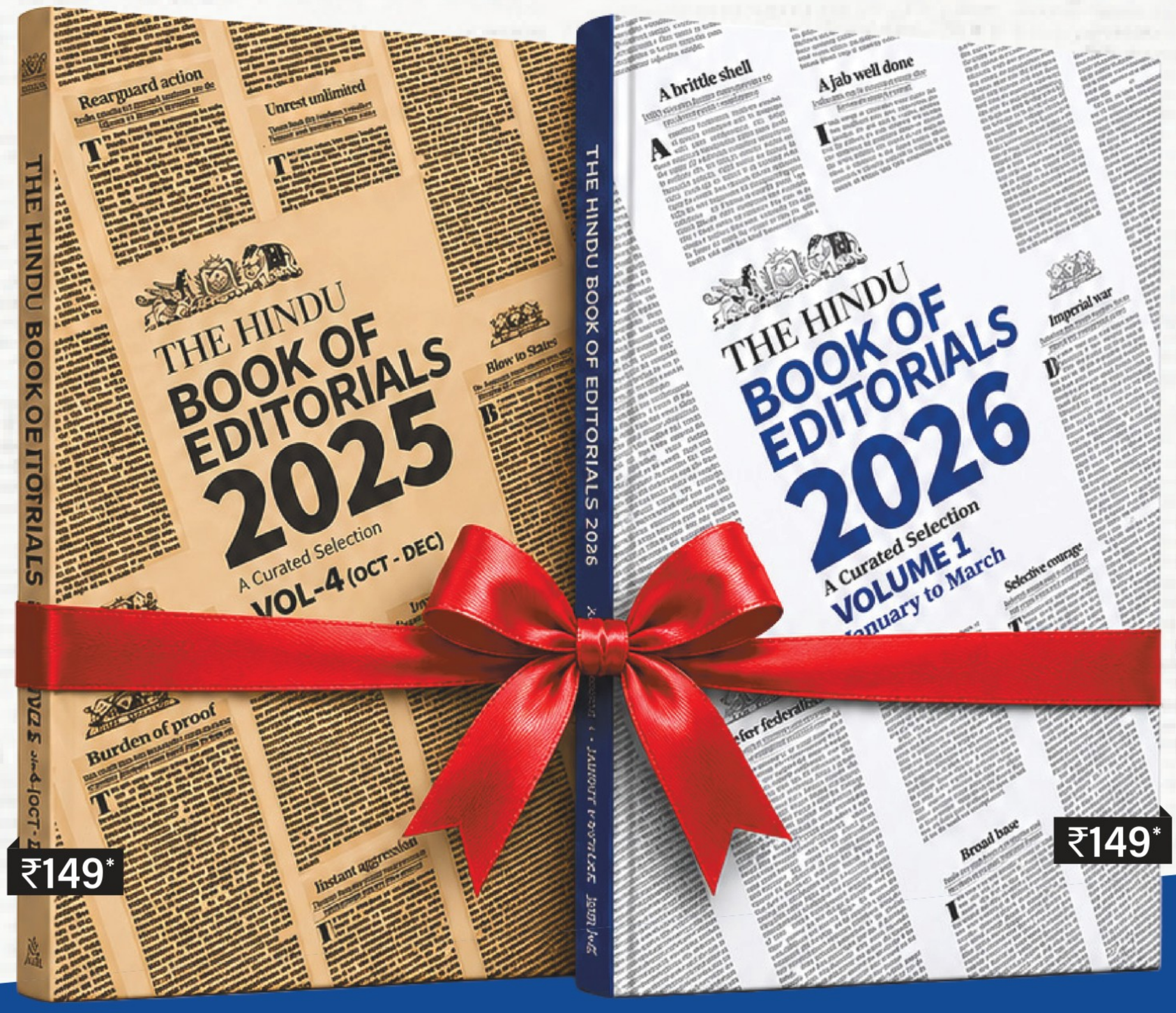

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Legacy lives on: (From left) D.K. Shivakumar paying floral tributes to Kempe Gowda at the Kempegowda International Airport on Saturday; Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan being felicitated by Nirmalanandanatha Swami and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy during Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Foundation award function; a view of S.M. Krishna Road that was inaugurated on the occasion of the Kempe Gowda Jayanti celebrations; a sapling plantation drive that marked the celebrations. SUDHAKARA JAIN/ ALLEN EGENUSE J./ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vertical development of Bengaluru inevitable: DKS

Chief Minister announces that Kempe Gowda Jayanti will no longer remain confined to the Vidhana Soudha but will be celebrated every year in one of Bengaluru's 28 Assembly constituencies over the next 28 years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said the State government is considering the "vertical development" of Bengaluru as the city continues to witness rapid growth, stressing that expansion upwards has become inevitable as more people migrate to the city in search of education, healthcare and employment.

Addressing the Kempe Gowda Jayanti celebrations here, Mr. Shivakumar emphasised that the entire world is looking at Bengaluru today, and the credit for that goes to Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda.

Foresight

"Five hundred years ago, he (Kempe Gowda) founded this city. When he built the city, he could not have imagined that it would grow to this extent. Yet, it is his foresight that has made this growth possible," he said.

"Bengaluru is growing every day, and its limits continue to expand. We have to think about vertical development," he said after paying floral tributes to Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda at Yelahanka.

Before Yelahanka, Mr. Shivakumar launched the celebrations at the 108-foot bronze statue of Kempe Gowda near Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). Later in the day, Mr. Shivakumar visited Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout to inaugurate a sapling drive as well as the

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the statue of Kempe Gowda at the Kempegowda International Airport on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

S.M. Krishna Road. At the KIA, Mr. Shivakumar said that the government would prepare an action plan to familiarise visitors with the history and legacy of the city's founder.

He said the airport authority had been instructed to develop facilities around the Trumpet interchange to prominently showcase Kempe Gowda's contribution to Bengaluru. The Chief Minister announced that Kempe Gowda Jayanti would no longer remain confined to the Vidhana Soudha, but would be celebrated every year in one of Bengaluru's 28 Assembly constituencies over the next 28 years.

"He was born a Vokkaliga but grew into a 'Vishwamanava'," Mr. Shivakumar said. "The Bengaluru founder belongs to every community, and his ideals should guide the city's future development," he added. The Chief Minister said the government has drawn up infrastructure projects worth ₹1.25 lakh crore for Bengaluru and reiterated that the city's development is central to Karnataka's progress.

He highlighted his initiatives, including digitisation of property records, implementation of e-Khata and conversion of B-Khata properties to A-Khata to provide legal certainty to property owners. As part of the celebrations, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) organised a 15-lakh sapling planting drive. In addition, Mr. Shivakumar inaugurated the Major Arterial Road, renamed S.M. Krishna Road, passing through the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

Kempegowda Fort

Mr. Shivakumar said the government had initiated the acquisition of 10 acres of land near Kempe Gowda's samadhi at Magadi, with 5.5 acres already purchased. Besides, the government is undertaking a ₹100 crore comprehensive development of the Kempegowda Fort. A town planning college and Kempegowda Bhavan are also being developed in his memory.

"The city has a population of 1.40 crore and has nearly 1.30 crore vehicles. No matter how much we expand the metro network or strengthen public transport, every person owns a vehicle," he said.

"We are working to provide metro connectivity to the airport within the next year. Over the next two years, we are planning to expand the metro network to 500 km, and Minister Krishna Byre Gowda will work on this vision," he added.

KEMPEGOWDA AWARDEES

S. Vishwanath

S. Vishwanath, who has over 40 years of experience in the fields of water, wastewater and sanitation, has been actively involved in promoting rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse, and the design and implementation of environmentally sustainable water management systems.

GKVK

Gandhi Krishi Vignana Kendra (GKVK) in Bengaluru is one of India's leading agricultural research and education centres. It plays a significant role in advancing agricultural science, developing innovative technologies, and providing guidance to farmers.

Rahul Dravid

Rahul Dravid is widely regarded as one of India's greatest cricketers having scored over 13,000 runs in test cricket and over 10,000 runs in One Day Internationals. Born on January 11, 1973, in Indore, he belongs to a Kannada-speaking family, settled in Bengaluru.

> The entire world is looking at Bengaluru today, and the credit for that goes to Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Chief Minister

Landowners who give up land for projects to be honoured with 'Walls of Gratitude'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday announced that the Karnataka government would establish "Walls of Gratitude" to honour landowners who voluntarily part with their land for public infrastructure and development projects.

The names of those who gave up their land will be etched on these walls.

Mr. Shivakumar made the announcement after inaugurating Major Arterial Road, now renamed S.M. Krishna Road. The development has come amid several farmer groups on the Bengaluru outskirts protesting against land acquisition notifications for development projects.

In fact, the S.M. Krishna Road, inaugurated by Mr. Shivakumar, is also facing acquisition hurdles. However, the Chief Minister said the initiative would recognise the sacrifices made by citizens who give up land without objections against projects such as industrial areas, schools, lakes and roads.

The Wall of Gratitude displaying the names of farmers who parted away with land for the construction of S.M. Krishna Road, in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The first such memorial wall came up at S.M. Krishna Road, where the names of landowners who contributed land for the project were inscribed.

"This road will not remain an 11-km stretch. It will eventually become part of a 123-km corridor, and the names of those who sacrificed their land for this development will be preserved permanently," he said.

The Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment to the proposed 123-km Bengaluru Business Corridor, stating that the tendering process was under way, and the final land acquisition notification for the stretch connecting Electronics City to Mysuru Road would be issued shortly.

15 lakh native saplings planted in BDA layouts in mega green drive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what is likely to be a Guinness world record, 15 lakh saplings of native species were planted across multiple Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) layouts to mark Kempe Gowda Jayanti.

According to the BDA, the event witnessed the participation of over 50,000 citizens. The event was also attended by Prema Krishna, wife of the former Chief Ministesr S.M. Krishna. Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and BDA Chairperson N.A. Haris planted saplings. Several educational institutions brought students to participate in the drive, which aimed to enhance the city's green cover.

Mr. Shivakumar said that every school in Bengaluru should take responsibility for one designated area, where children would plant and nurture trees. In this regard, a competition would be organised by the Greater Bengaluru Authority, he said. Meanwhile, the BDA organised a marathon in two categories- 5 km and 10 km. It was flagged off at Challaghatta by Kannada film star Kiccha Sudeep.

The route covered the newly built 10-km stretch connecting Magadi Road and Mysore Road. It was part of the inauguration of the 10-lane S.M. Krishna Road. Mr. Haris claimed nearly 10,000 citizens participated in the marathon, including a 98-year-old senior citizen.

Boarding pass swap scam at KIA: Two held in travel document racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A sophisticated passport and boarding pass swap scam at Kempegowda International Airport has exposed an alleged attempt by two foreign nationals to bypass immigration checks using exchanged boarding passes and fake travel documents, prompting separate criminal cases under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Immigration authorities alleged that Canadian passport holder Chiwarajah Dachshan and Sri Lankan national Sinnappu Subakaran exchanged their boarding passes on June 23 in an attempt to travel on different international flights. While Dachshan was originally booked on an Air India flight (AI-133) to London, Subakaran was scheduled to fly to Singapore on Singapore Airlines

A view of the Kempegowda International Airport.

flight SQ-509. According to investigators, Subakaran allegedly used Dachshan's boarding pass to attempt boarding the London-bound flight.

During security and immigration verification, officials discovered discrepancies in the travel documents and found that the boarding pass belonged to another passenger. Further examination allegedly revealed forged immigration stamps and fake passport documents.

Meanwhile, before the alleged fraud was detected, Dachshan is said to have boarded SQ-509 using Subakaran's boarding pass. Upon arrival in Singapore, immigration authorities allegedly rejected his entry after he produced a fake Sri Lankan passport, declaring him an inadmissible passenger. He was subsequently returned to Bengaluru.

Immigration officials alleged that the duo had deliberately exchanged boarding passes to evade immigration scrutiny and facilitate international travel using fraudulent identities. The investigation further suggests that forged passports and counterfeit immigration stamps were used during the attempted journey.

Based on separate complaints filed by Immigration Officer Kasinatha Durai and airline official Mallesha A.S., the police registered two connected cases against the accused under the BNS, 2023, and the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Home Minister stresses on tech-driven policing amid growing threat of cybercrimes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday reviewed the functioning of the State Police Computer Wing, stressing the need to leverage information technology to make policing more transparent, efficient and citizen-friendly amid the growing threat of cybercrimes.

During the review meeting, Director-General of Police (DGP) M.A. Saleem and senior officers briefed the Minister on the department's technological infrastructure, digital platforms and ongoing modernisation initiatives.

Mr. Kharge directed the officials to strengthen technological capabilities, adopt advanced digital solutions and improve the delivery of public services in view of the increasing incidence of cyber offences. He called for enhancing transparency and accountability in policing through

Priyank Kharge visiting the State Police Computer Wing in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officials discussed development of Police IT v2 – the Karnataka Police's Enterprise Resource Planning platform

better digital governance.

The officials discussed the further development of Police IT v2, the Karnataka Police's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform that integrates crime records management, traffic administration and departmental operations. The deliberations focused on modernising the department's digital ecosystem, strengthening cybersecurity, improving interoperability among various digital platforms and creating a unified digital framework for police operations.

The meeting also reviewed initiatives proposed under the Home Department's 100-day action plan, with emphasis on building a smarter, technology-driven and intelligence-led policing system in the State.

Chief Minister to lay foundation for short tunnel near Hebbal today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The project was suggested by the Bengaluru Traffic Police to help ease congestion in areas such as Ganganagar, Sanjay Nagar, and R.T. Nagar, according to sources

In a fresh development, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda will take part in the groundbreaking ceremony for a three-lane short transitory twin tunnel from Hebbal Junction to Karnataka Veterinary, Animal, and Fisheries University (KVAFSU).

Contract

The short tunnel will span 2.27 km, and an elevated corridor from the KVAFSU to Mehkri Circle will be built. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the implementing agency, recently awarded the contract. The contractor has also carried out soil testing.

According to sources, the project was suggested by the Bengaluru Traffic Police to help ease congestion in areas such as Ganganagar, Sanjay Nagar, and R.T. Nagar.

While there was initial opposition from the public, the government continued to support the project, citing the impact of short tunnels in reducing micro-level congestion.

The Karnataka Cabinet had given administrative approval for the project in December 2025. Tenders were called twice for the project, as no contractor had shown interest the first time.

Fierce loyalty: Personnel of the Nepal Army performing a synchronised *khukuri* drill during a military display in Kathmandu, Nepal. The blade is showcased by soldiers during parades, ceremonial events and cultural events as symbol of loyalty and courage of the soldiers.

Warriors in rhythm: A drill that forms part of a military display, showcasing precision, discipline, and the traditional combat weapon.

Secure build: A worker at a workshop in Patan handcrafting a *khukuri* sheath. This sheath is worn around the waist by soldiers, to carry the blade securely and draw it with ease.

Razor sharp: A worker shapes and sharpens the *khukuri* on a machine during the finishing process.

Combat ready: Personnel of the Nepal Army seen with bayonets on their rifles which are not the same as the *khukuri*.

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ಮುಖ್ಯ ಚುನಾವಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka

BE A PART OF
SIR
2026

The purpose of SIR (Special Intensive Revision) is to include all eligible citizen in the voter list. During this SIR, check and ensure your name is in the voter list. Become a part of the foundation of democracy.

Description	Date
Qualifying Date	1st October, 2026
House to House Visits by BLO's	30th June, 2026 to 29th July, 2026
Publication of Draft Electoral Roll	5th August, 2026
Period for filing Claims & Objections	5th August, 2026 to 4th September 2026
Notice Phase/Disposal of Claims & Objections	5th August, 2026 to 3rd October 2026
Publication of Final Electoral Roll	7th October, 2026

What will BLOs (Booth Level Officers) do?

- Will provide enumeration forms to all voters who were on the electrol roll as of 16th June 2026.
- Will visit your homes between 30th June 2026 to 29th July 2026.
- Will give you two copies of the enumeration form and will help you to fill the form.
- Will collect the enumeration form you filled out and give you a receipt for it.

Elector is requested to:

- Fill out both forms given by the BLO.
- Affix one recent color photo on the form. (This is not mandatory).
- Contact the BLO if you need help in filling the form or uploading it online.
- Hand over the filled forms to the BLO and collect the receipt

Publication of Draft Electoral Roll - 5th August, 2026 (Wednesday)

Eligibility for Elector

As per article 326 of The Constitution of India:

- Citizen of India.
- At least 18 years of age.
- Ordinarily Resident of the constituency.
- Not disqualified under any laws.

How to know if your name is in the Draft Voter List?

You can check

- From the voter list kept by the Booth Level Officer (BLO).
- From the ECINET mobile app.
- You can check the voter list at voters.eci.gov.in.
- You can check it from the websites of CEO Karnataka & the concerned District Election Officer.

What to do if your name is not in the Draft Voter List?

You need to fill Form 6 and submit it along with declaration form. You can submit it to the Booth Level Officer (BLO) or apply online at voters.eci.gov.in or via ECINET app.

List of Indicative (not exhaustive) Documents

1. Any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt./State Govt./PSU
2. Any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by Government/local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987
3. Birth Certificate issued by the competent authority
4. Passport
5. Matriculation/Educational certificate issued by recognised Boards/universities
6. Permanent Residence certificate issued by competent State authority
7. Forest Right Certificate
8. OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent authority
9. National Register of Citizens (wherever it exists)
10. Family Register maintained by Govt. officials under any Statute/Administrative/Regulation
11. Any land/house allotment certificate by Government
12. For Aadhaar, Commission's directions issued vide letter No. 23/2025-ERS/Vol.II dated 09.09.2025 shall apply

Application Forms:	
Form 6	New voter registration
Form 6A	Overseas voter registration
Form 7	Deletion of name
Form 8	Shifting of Residence/Correction of Entries/ Replacement of EPIC/Marking of PWD

APPEAL PROVISION

An appeal under Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 on any decision of the ERO lies with the District Magistrate (District Election Officer)

ECINET MOBILE APP
Scan QR Code to Download App
Google play | Download on the App Store

For more information please visit
https://www.ceo.karnataka.gov.in

Visit the official portal
https://voters.eci.gov.in

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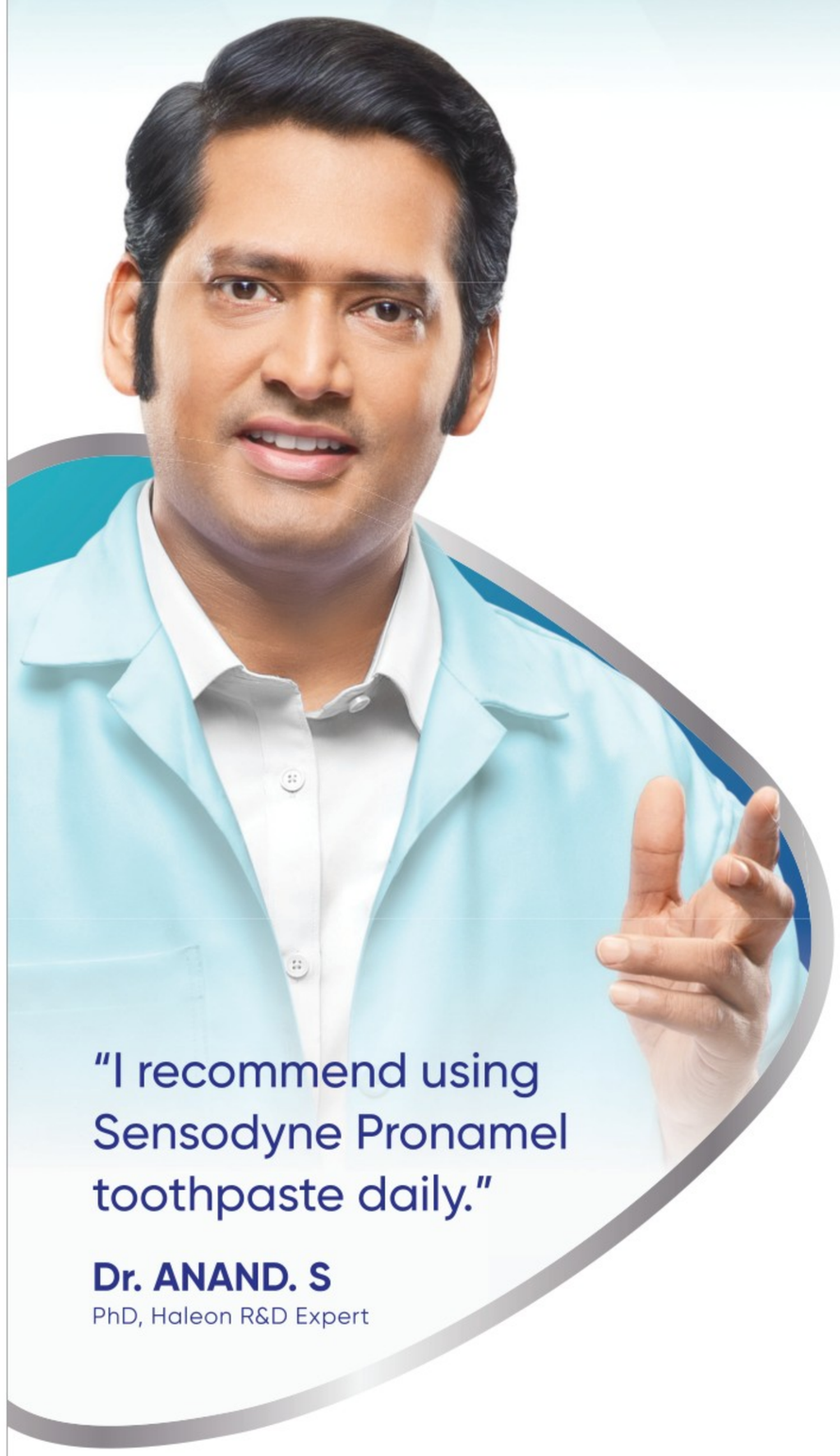
SENSODYNE PRONAMEL



"ACIDS IN EVERYDAY FOODS AND DRINKS DAMAGE YOUR TOOTH ENAMEL"

CITRUS FRUITS

TEA/ COFFEE

COLA

Good oral health starts with a strong enamel, the outer protective layer of our teeth. But acids in food and drinks weaken it every day. Once your enamel is gone, you can get dental problems like Sensitivity, Yellowing and Cavities.

SENSITIVITY

YELLOWING

CAVITIES

Backed by over 20 years of research, Sensodyne Pronamel's advanced scientific formula helps absorb minerals deep into the enamel, to give you stronger enamel protection.

STRONGER ENAMEL PROTECTION*

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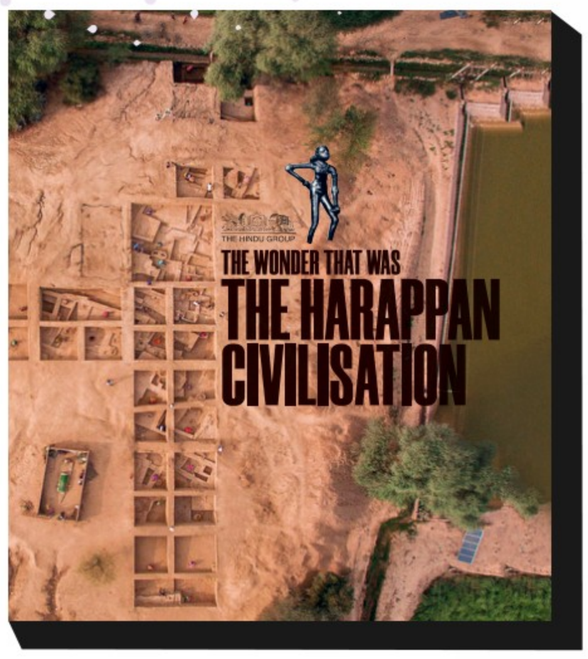

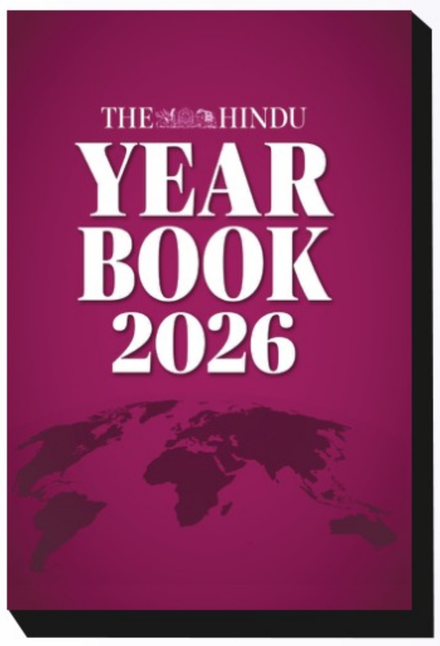

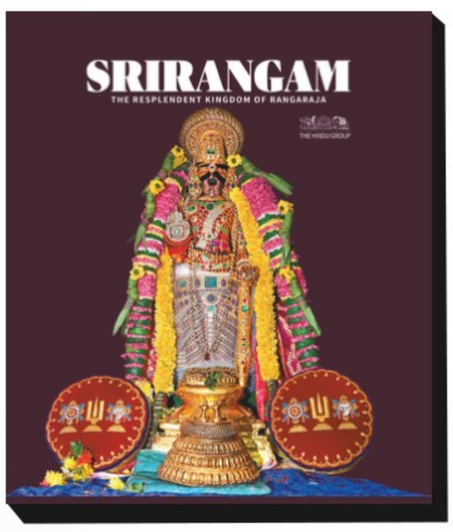

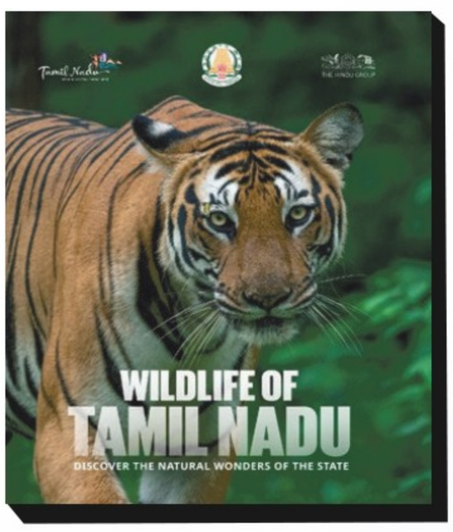

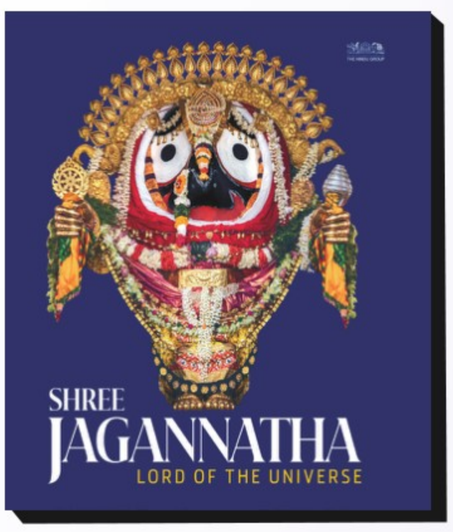

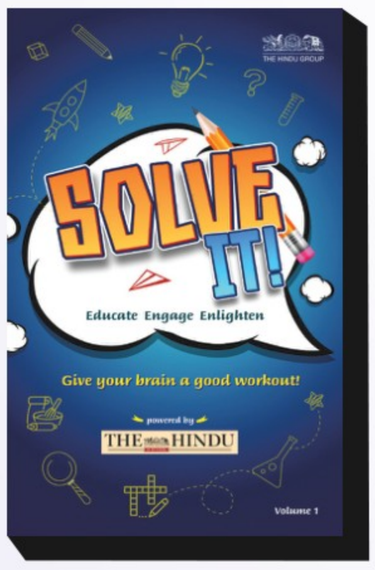

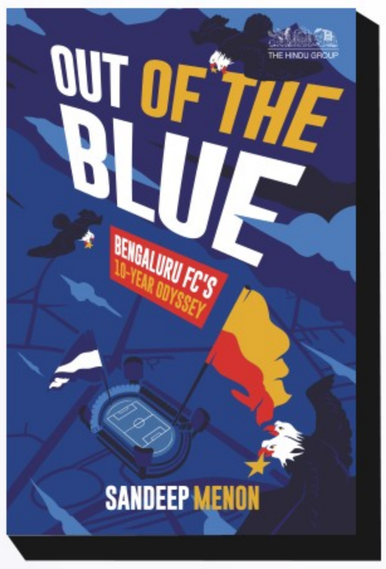

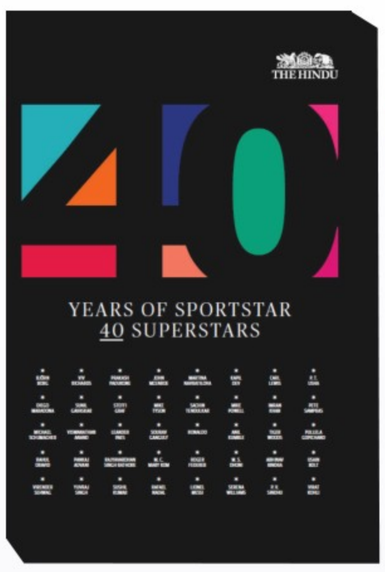

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₹2.98 crore in undocumented cash seized; two businessmen arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major cash seizure, the Mahalakshmi Layout Police recovered ₹2,98,00,900 in undocumented cash from a shed in Kurubarahalli. The cash, packed in four bags, was allegedly kept without any valid documents, leaving even the police team stunned.

The money reportedly belongs to Nagaraj, a businessman from Tavarekere, who had allegedly stored it in a shed owned by his friend Venkatesh in Kurubarahalli. Acting on a tip-off, Sub-Inspector Rakesh and his team raided a shed operating under the name Sheshadri Industries at 11th Cross, Kurubarahalli.

The police have arrested Nagaraj and Venkatesh. During questioning, the accused reportedly claimed that the money had been brought for business purposes and to buy a house at an auction.

However, they failed to produce valid documents establishing the source of the cash, and the police could not corroborate their claim.

Upset over breakup, man blows up car and dies; woman escapes with minor injuries

The man allegedly abducted the woman from Bengaluru and was proceeding towards Ankola when the vehicle exploded on NH-48; police recover bomb-like explosive material from vehicle

The Hindu Bureau
TUMAKURU

A 30-year-old man, reportedly upset over his female friend breaking up with him, allegedly abducted her from Jayanagar and took her towards his hometown Ankola, during which he blew up the car they were travelling in using a "petrol bomb" like device, near Jogihalli in Sira taluk of Tumakuru district on Saturday.

The blast triggered a major fire, leading to a traffic jam of more than a kilometre on the highway. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the man was charred to death, the girl, with the help of the car's driver, escaped minutes before the explosion. They both sustained minor injuries and are undergoing treatment.

The deceased has been identified as Nagendra. The injured have been identified as Ramya and Praveen, the cab driver. Both were shifted to the Tumakuru District Hospital.

According to the police, the trio was travelling from Bengaluru towards Ankola in a cab when the vehicle exploded on National Highway-48. Preliminary investigations suggest that explosive material was kept inside the car. The blast triggered a major fire, leading to a traffic jam of more than a kilometre on the highway.

Investigators said Nagendra and Ramya were reportedly in a relationship and had been facing personal disputes for several days. Ramya had allegedly blocked Nagendra's phone number following differences between them.

The police said Nagendra allegedly went to Ramya's house in Jayanagar on Saturday, picked up a quarrel with her, and forcibly took her into the vehicle. Based on a complaint lodged by her parents, the Jayanagar Police had registered a kidnapping case.

During the journey, Nagendra allegedly threatened Ramya, saying he would kill her and then die himself. He also reportedly showed her a "petrol bomb" and continued threatening her.

Near Jogihalli in Sira taluk, Nagendra allegedly attacked Ramya with a knife inside the moving vehicle. The driver immediately stopped the cab, allowing Ramya to unlock the door and jump out to safety. Moments later, the car exploded and caught fire, killing Nagendra on the spot.

The police have reportedly recovered a bomb-like explosive material from the burnt vehicle and are conducting a detailed investigation to ascertain the nature of the explosives and the exact cause of the blast.

The Kallambella police have registered a case and further investigation is under way.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these helplines: TeleMANAS at 1-8008914416/ 14416, NIMHANS at 08026685948, 9480829670 or SAHAI at 080 25497777, +91-9886444075)

Government to provide STEAM-based education at high school level in KPS

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

With a stated aim "to shape the career paths of students at the school level and to develop them into creative entrepreneurs in the future", the State government has decided to provide STEAM-based high-tech education to Karnataka Public School (KPS) students – starting in high school.

In the STEAM education system, emphasis is placed on developing skills to solve real-life problems. FILE PHOTO

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. In STEAM-based education, learning is made more interesting and effective, primarily through experiments, robotics, coding, electronics, model building and problem-solving skills.

In the prevalent traditional model of education, students read and understand the contents of textbooks and write exams. In the STEAM education system, emphasis is placed on developing skills to solve real-life problems.

"STEAM will encourage students to become creative and work collaboratively in a team. In this model of education, students are empowered to engage in project-based learning. The inclusion of 'Arts' in STEAM will enhance the imagination of students, help them with design thinking, and enable them to find creative and innovative solutions," said a Department of School Education and Literacy official.

In the future job market, technical knowledge alone will not be enough. Instead, new ideas, design skills, teamwork, and communication skills will be needed. STEAM education comprehensively covers all these aspects and will provide them with basic skills to succeed in even emerging fields like artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, data science, and space technology, the official added.

As a pilot, robotics, coding, AI, and practical learning are already being emphasised on at the KPS in Kalasa, Chikkamagaluru district, with the help of the Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL). Henceforth, all KPS will focus on STEAM-based education modules, officials said.

Vikas Kishor Suralkar, Commissioner for School Education, said measures are being taken to make suitable changes to the curriculum to implement STEAM-based education in KPS. "This will help students develop the skills required for the future job market," he noted.

CBSE schools seek clarification on the implementation of three-language policy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has raised objections and written to the Chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) against the implementation of three-language policy.

D. Shashikumar, general secretary of the KAMS, has sought clarifications within 15 days in this regard.

On June 26, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the relaxation of the three-language policy for class 7, 8 and 9 CBSE students.

He said, "While the policy will be implemented for class 6 students, class 7, 8 and 9 students can continue with their choice of foreign languages that they were studying earlier."

Dharmendra Pradhan

Mr. Shashikumar said, "Many CBSE schools already offer Kannada as either the first or second language. Hence, we want clarity on whether Sanskrit, Hindi and other approved Indian languages can continue to be offered as the third language in schools. What should be done in case if a student has migrated from another State to Karnataka and is in class 6. The student may face challenges in adapting to revised language requirements."

The KAMS demanded clarity on the examination pattern that would apply to the CBSE schools in case of three-language policy in Karnataka. It urged that the Union government and the CBSE must permit schools to continue with their existing approved language combinations for the current academic year.

The association requested that the implementation of the circular to be kept in abeyance until it is harmonised with the Karnataka Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, and the Kannada Language Learning Rules, 2017.

It also sought the availability of prescribed textbooks, comprehensive implementation guidelines and stakeholder consultations before the policy is implemented.

Man loses ₹99K to online homestay booking scam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 47-year-old man was allegedly cheated of ₹99,666 by cyber fraudsters while attempting to book accommodation at Kumara Krupa Guest House through an online platform.

According to the complaint, he came across a contact claiming to offer homestay bookings. He was directed to click a web link, which redirected him to WhatsApp..

The accused, speaking in Hindi, allegedly sent multiple QR codes through WhatsApp and instructed the complainant to make payments to confirm the room booking, which the latter did on June 23.

After receiving the payments, the accused allegedly stopped responding and no accommodation was arranged. The victim lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police.

Trial by fire

Members of the Indian Youth Congress raising slogans during a torch rally to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET paper leak and CBSE on-screen marking row, in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

7, including 2 rowdy-sheeters, arrested for plotting revenge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The organised crime wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) has arrested seven persons, including two rowdy-sheeters, for allegedly conspiring to murder a rival in an act of revenge. The police also seized 30 lethal weapons, including longs, machetes and daggers, along with a car and a two-wheeler used by the accused.

According to the police, the conspiracy stemmed from the murder of a rowdy-sheeter in the Ashok Nagar Police Station limits in February last year. Investigators said the victim's brother, along with his associates, allegedly planned to eliminate the person accused of orchestrating the earlier murder as retaliation.

The CCB's Organised Crime Wing tracked the suspects on June 26 while they were moving around in a car and on a motorcycle, allegedly armed with lethal weapons and waiting for an opportunity to execute the murder.

Hotels demand LPG price rollback amid hospitality sector struggles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Hotels Association (KSHA) has written to Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri demanding a rollback of the price hike of commercial LPG cylinders.

Hotel owners say that even if cylinder prices reduce in the future, prices of groceries and vegetables are always high.

KSHA president G.K. Shetty said, "We have written to the Union Minister urging him to reduce the prices of commercial LPG cylinders because the crude oil price has also reduced. At present, the price of commercial cylinders is ₹3,152, and the hoteliers are at a loss. Since the price of crude oil for one barrel has reduced from $110 to $69-$72, which is the same as it was in February 2026, we want the Centre to reduce the prices to ₹1,800, back to February levels."

Mr. Shetty added, "When the cylinder price was ₹1,800, we paid ₹1,650 after discount. Now, it has become difficult and most hoteliers are at a loss. If the prices are reduced, then it will boost the hotel and hospitality industry. As everyone is aware, the conflict involving the U.S. and Iran severely disrupted global gas supplies. Initially, supplies were affected significantly. These disruptions resulted in a steep increase in commercial LPG prices."

He also clarified that if the Centre reduces the cylinder prices, then KSHA can request hotel owners to reduce the prices of various food items. "We can ask them to reduce the prices by ₹5 to ₹15 which they had increased recently," he noted.

However, hotel owners in the city have questioned that even if the cylinder prices might reduce in the future, the prices of groceries and vegetables are always high.

Praveen Gowda, manager at a vegetarian hotel in Vasanth Nagar, said, "I doubt if the Centre will reduce the prices of LPG cylinders. Even if they do, we cannot reduce the prices of commodities because the prices of all types of pulses and cereals have increased. Additionally, the prices of vegetables and cooking oil have also increased."

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Khaleel, manager at a non-vegetarian hotel in Shivajinagar, said, "Not just the prices of ingredients to cook food, but the price of electricity and water are also more when compared to the previous years. I agree that hotels buy commodities at wholesale prices, which are lower in comparison to retail prices. However, the prices of spices we use in non-vegetarian items are always high. We also need to pay staff salaries. I don't think the prices of food items will be reduced anywhere."

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUN. 28		
RISE	05:56	SET 18:49
RISE	17:39	SET 04:15
MONDAY, JUN. 29		
RISE	05:57	SET 18:50
RISE	18:30	SET 05:05
TUESDAY, JUN. 30		
RISE	05:57	SET 18:50
RISE	19:20	SET 05:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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India mastered cryogenic engine tech once denied to it: ISRO chief

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

India has mastered the cryogenic engine technology once denied to it, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said on Saturday.

He said the country is preparing for the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission, advancing Chandrayaan-4, a lunar sample return mission, and Chandrayaan-5, a joint long-duration mission with Japan involving a heavier rover.

Delivering the 17th Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre Memorial Lecture at the HAL Management Academy under the aegis of the Air Force Association, Karnataka Branch, Mr. Narayanan outlined India's progress in space technology and its roadmap towards establishing an Indian space station by 2035 and landing an Indian astronaut on the Moon by 2040.

V. Narayanan

"We have developed a cryogenic rocket engine, the technology which was denied to India," Mr. Narayanan said.

He explained that India had transformed technology denial into technological leadership by developing three cryogenic propulsion systems and setting multiple world records in the process.

Mr. Narayanan said the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission was the immediate focus before India proceeds with crewed spaceflight.

"We are now working on the first uncrewed mission this year. Then once we review the result, we'll come back to the crewed mission," he said during the lecture.

He said Chandrayaan-4 would be India's first lunar sample return mission, while Chandrayaan-5, to be undertaken jointly with Japan, would deploy a 350-kg rover capable of operating for nearly 100 days, compared with the 25-kg rover and 14-day operational life of Chandrayaan-3.

Highlighting India's rise in space technology, Mr. Narayanan said the country had evolved from launching a gifted 7-kg sounding rocket in 1963 to building some of the world's most advanced launch vehicles and spacecraft.

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From milk to fruits, expired items worth over ₹2L found in warehouses

Forty-four cases booked for offences, including storage of expired food, misbranding and other non-compliances

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Apart from the cases booked, the department issued 65 notices to Food Business Operators directing them to rectify the violations. FILE PHOTO

Across many instant grocery outlets in the city, on which a large section of the city's population depends for day-to-day grocery needs, expired and misbranded products worth more than ₹2.35 lakh were found in warehouses supplying groceries through quick-commerce platforms.

This came after the Karnataka Food Safety and Drug Administration (FDA) carried out surprise inspections across Bengaluru earlier this month. The department has booked 44 cases for offences including storage of expired food, misbranding and other non-compliances.

"The two-day special drive was conducted on June 12 and 13, with Food Safety Officers inspecting warehouses and stores that fulfil online grocery orders. As more consumers are increasingly relying on quick-commerce platforms for everyday essentials, the inspections were conducted focusing on products such as milk, curd, bread, vegetables, fruits, snacks, beverages and packaged foods and to also check whether these storage facilities were maintaining the required standards of cleanliness, hygiene and food safety," a senior FDA official said.

According to the department's findings, 266 warehouses were identified for inspection during the drive. Of these, the officials inspected 236 units, while 30 were found to be closed, non-traceable or otherwise unavailable for inspection.

The inspections resulted in the seizure of expired food products worth ₹2,35,095. Officials also registered 44 adjudication cases against Food Business Operators (FBOs) for violations. "Many food items were found carrying incorrect or misleading labels, including inaccurate information about ingredients, expiry dates and other mandatory declarations," the official said.

Apart from the cases booked, the department issued 65 notices to FBOs directing them to rectify the violations. "Penalties amounting to ₹1,97,999 were also imposed during the enforcement drive," the official confirmed to *The Hindu*.

"Such drives were initiated after receiving complaints from members of the public and based on the understanding that people are increasingly becoming dependent on these services," an official said, adding that expired products that should have been removed from inventory were still found in storage during the inspections. Even the products nearing their expiry date had not been segregated, he added.

Queries to multiple quick-commerce platforms by *The Hindu* did not yield any responses.

At a glance

- Common food items: **Milk, fruits, vegetable, curd, instant products and batter**
- Units identified **266**
- Units inspected **236**
- Units unavailable **30**
- Adjudication cases booked **44**
- Violations: **Expired food, misbranding**
- Notices issued **65**
- Penalty **₹1.98 lakh**
- Expired food seized **₹2.35 lakh**

Rowdy-sheeter hacked to death on busy road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

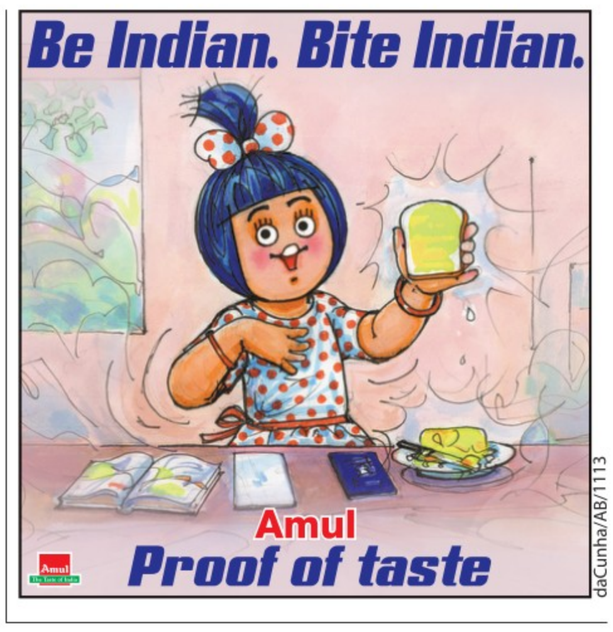
A 29-year-old rowdy sheeter was hacked to death by a group of unidentified assailants on the busy J.P. Nagar Main Road on Saturday.

The police suspect it to be a revenge killing linked to old gang rivalries.

The deceased, identified as Raja alias Halmurka Raja, a resident of Pragathipuram, was attacked around 5.30 p.m. near Indira Gandhi (IG) Circle.

According to the police, Raja had stopped for tea and was walking along the roadside when four to five armed assailants suddenly attacked him with machetes and other sharp weapons. He attempted to flee but was chased down and repeatedly hacked in full public view amidst heavy traffic. The attackers escaped. The police rushed to the spot, shifted the body for postmortem and registered a murder case.

The police said Raja had been named in the sensational murder case of Banashankari rowdy "Stand Kutti" which took place nearly a decade ago. He had reportedly spent time in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison along with another accused in that case before securing bail.



5 killed, 5 others injured in head-on collision on NH-63

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Five persons, including three members of a family, were killed and five others were injured in a collision between a car and a mini goods vehicle on NH-63 near Bhanapur in Kukanoor taluk of Koppal district early on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Kenchamma Balekayi, 34, her husband Praveen Shivaji Balekayi, 40, their son Chinmaya, 18, the car driver Ramesh Ballari, 45, and Amrutha Kotyal, 30, all residents of Haveri district.

According to the police, the victims were travelling from Haveri to Mantralaya in a car when a mini goods vehicle carrying JCB spare parts, on its way from Ballari to Hubballi, jumped the road median and collided with the car.

The impact was so severe that the car was completely mangled and the bodies of some of the victims were thrown onto the road.

Mr. Arasiddi said said the driver of the goods vehicle had been taken into custody for questioning.

After mangoes, HOPCOMS to deliver fresh vegetables to your doorstep

Rashmi Patil
BENGALURU

Offering a service that has become a monopoly of quick-commerce platforms, Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing and Processing Society (HOPCOMS) is now planning to deliver vegetables and fruits to your doorstep. While HOPCOMS promises quality vegetables and fruits, often a concern on quick-commerce platforms, it will take 24 hours to deliver.

This is being planned through their newly-launched initiative, Farmers' Post (Raithara Anche), in partnership with India Post. Earlier, Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited (KSMDMC) delivered mangoes to people's doorsteps with the help of India Post. Officials at HOPCOMS are currently studying the vegetable market and the kind of vegetables people prefer to consume across Bengaluru.

Vinayak Reddy, general manager, HOPCOMS Bengaluru, said, "From May 29 to June 23, 2026, we have been able to deliver 936 mango boxes, each consisting of three kg of mango, and over 12 boxes of mixed fruits, especially the imported ones like apple gala, South Africa orange and pears, avocado, litchi, kiwi and yelakki banana. The mixed fruits were added to the initiative in the first week of June. Now, we are planning to deliver fresh vegetables to the doorstep."

While HOPCOMS promises quality vegetables and fruits, a concern on quick-commerce platforms, it will take 24 hours to deliver.

This is being planned through HOPCOMS' new initiative, Farmers' Post (Raithara Anche), in partnership with India Post

Explaining how HOPCOMS plans to survive in a competitive market, where many quick-commerce platforms also deliver fruits and vegetables, Amitha Pandey, technical coordinator, said, "We are not going to compete with these platforms. While we understand that these platforms deliver in less than half an hour and we take 24 hours to deliver, ours are of top quality or first-grade. HOPCOMS is known for selling only first-grade vegetables and fruits at its outlets. Besides, we have received a good response from people when we sold mangoes through India Post. The delivery rate to any location is ₹93, which is lower than what is charged when people send documents or articles from one place to another."

To ensure HOPCOMS gets first-grade products, the officials themselves inspect the vegetables and fruits delivered by farmers, Mr. Reddy explained. "Our officials go to APMCs or K.R. Market almost everyday. The auction of vegetables begins at 3 or 4 a.m. There, we see the prices and quality of vegetables so that we have a clear idea of grades. We pick the first-grade ones and the price-fixing committee fixes the price accordingly. First-grade ones are those that are uniform in size, have no scars or blemishes, and have appealing colours," he explained.

He also informed that HOPCOMS always pays farmers one or two rupees extra per kg than private traders in the market. "There are around 9,000 farmers registered with HOPCOMS. Usually, farmers sell the remaining second-grade or lower-grade ones to local retailers, APMCs or even mandis," Mr. Reddy stated.

Meanwhile, a senior official from India Post said, "We are glad that they chose us to deliver fruits and soon, vegetables to doorsteps. Unlike other platforms, even if it is one box of fruits, our postmen travel and deliver to the right address."

Farmer registration for Totapuri opened under MIP scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the announcement by the Union government to provide a support price under the Market Intervention Price Scheme for Totapuri mangoes, the State government began farmer registration on Saturday.

On Thursday, the Centre announced a scheme to protect the interests of Totapuri mango farmers in Karnataka, especially those in Kolar district. At present, registration is being implemented in Kolar, Chickballapur and Bengaluru South districts for the year 2026-27.

The registration process has started from June 27 in selected taluk and hobli centres. FILE PHOTO

Ibrahim Maigur, Director of Horticulture Department, said, "Farmers can first register under the scheme and only then sell mangoes. The farmers' registration process will start from June 27 in selected taluk and hobli centres. Since the scheme is being implemented through Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation Limited, they will undertake the 'MIS-PDPS Mango Farmers Registration' task through NeML software. This scheme will be in force for a period of one month only from the date of the first transaction of mango produce in the software."

He requested eligible Totapuri mango growers of Kolar and Chickballapur districts to register at the designated centres and avail themselves of the benefits of this scheme.

Mr. Maigur added, "Farmers have to sell their mangoes at Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) markets and mango processing units identified by the Agricultural Marketing Department under the jurisdiction of the respective districts. The Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts will form a special team comprising officials from the Revenue, Agricultural Marketing and Horticulture departments to supervise and implement this scheme."

According to a press release from the State government, a Market Intervention Price (MIP) of ₹1,750 per quintal has been fixed for the purchase of Totapuri mangoes. A purchase quantity of 1,30,000 tonnes has been targeted under the scheme, and 25% of the difference money between MIP and prevailing market price will be paid to farmers. This means that ₹4.37 per kg will be paid to farmers.

The release further stated that under the scheme, the difference amount will only be given for a maximum of 200 quintals and limited to a maximum of five acres for each farmer.

VB-G RAM G: Puttur artist wins logo design contest

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Ramprasad K., a 25-year-old artist from Puttur, has been adjudged as the winner of the logo design contest for Viksit Bharat-Guranatee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G). He will be felicitated by Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan, at the National Vikas Sammelan in New Delhi on Monday.

The contest was conducted by Union Ministry of Rural Development, in collaboration with MyGov.

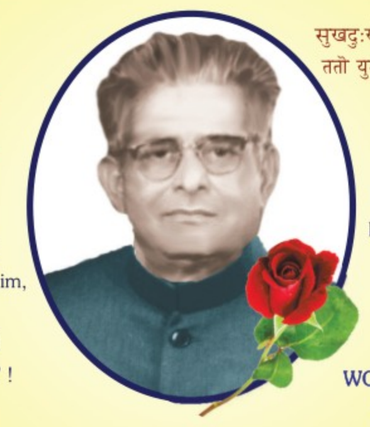
The Ministry said as many as 7,233 entries were received from across the country.

"The selected logo captures the essence of the Act by symbolising human dignity, collective effort, and the transformative journey towards Viksit Bharat, while reflecting the core pillars of employment generation, livelihood security, and rural resilience," the release stated.

In Loving Memory of

पूर्वं राम तपोवनाभिगमनं
हत्वा मृगं कांचनं
वैदेही हरणं जठायुमरणं
सुग्रीव संभाषणम् ॥
वालीं निग्रहणं समुद्र तरणं
लंकापुरी दाहनं
पश्चाद्रावण कुंभकर्ण मथनं
हौतद्धि रामायण्म् ॥

सुखदुःखे समेकृत्वा लाभालाभौ जयाजयौ
ततो युद्धात युज्यस्व नैवं पापमवाप्स्यसि



His life is so gentle and
the elements so mixed in him,
that nature might
stand up, And say to all
the world "This is a Man" !
Host to the millions,
SRI KRISHNA RAO
is a host unto Himself

He is ever composed.
He talks softly.
Even if others talk to him
harshly, he does not answer
in the same manner

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The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/38 Dated: 22-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Centralized Electronic Interlocking (EI) system at Banavar (BVR) and Devanur (VNR) stations between Sampige Road-Karajgi sections of Mysuru Division of South Western Railway.	Rs. 22,52,900.88

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 13-07-2026**

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/39 Dated: 23-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Automatic signaling system between Bengaluru - Mysuru Section of Bengaluru - Mysuru Divisions.	Rs. 30,28,514.00

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 14-07-2026**

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/40 Dated: 23-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
(Re - Tender)Mysuru Augmentation of Mechanised Laundry from 3.5 Ton to 7 Ton / Day capacity.	Rs.1,00,42,730.50

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 14-07-2026**

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/41 Dated: 24-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
Harihar -Reconstruction of staff quarters at Harihar Type-II 12 units in lieu of dilapidated Qtrs. type-II No. 8/A-D, 11, 18/A-C, 20/A-B, 34/A-B at Harihar station.	Rs. 30,51,602.23

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 15-07-2026**

E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/42 Dated: 24-06-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
Davangere - Reconstruction of staff quarters 12 units in lieu of dilapidated Quarters Type-II No. 8/A-D, 11, 33/A-B, 43, 46/A-B and 52/A-B at Davangere.	Rs. 30,51,602.23

Last date for submission of bids for **Tender: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 15-07-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer General / Mysuru
PUB/242/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 06/2027/SBC Dated: 24-06-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Sl	Tender No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
1	L8265091C	Supply of Porcelain Bracket insulator **Qty- 2516 Nos.**	20-07-2026 10:30 Hrs.
2	L8265090C	Supply of PORCELAIN STAY ARM INSULATOR **Qty- 2771 Nos.**	20-07-2026 10:30 Hrs.
3	L8265927	Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning LIVE LINE OHE MEASURING GAUGE **Qty- 34 Nos.**	15-07-2026 10:30 Hrs.
4	L8265935	Supply of Joint less grooved Copper Contact Wire **Qty- 2500 MTR.**	16-07-2026 10:30 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/245/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division

Tender Notice No.: SA-M-DSL-ED-OT-26-27-2A
Dated: 25.06.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode - 638002 E-Tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl No.	Description	Details
1	Tender Notice Number and Date	SA-M-DSL-ED-OT-26-27-2A Dated: 25.06.2026
2	**Name of the Work:** Repairing & overhauling of IRAB 9/10 Tri plate panel of Electric locomotives at Southern Railway, Salem Division, Loco Shed, Erode. **Qty - 15 Nos.**	
3	Estimate Value	₹ 6475174/-
4	Tender Closing Date and Time	17.07.2026 at 15:00 hrs
5	Web address	https://www.ireps.gov.in

Complete details of the above tenders are given on the e-portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"**
For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"**
For Details about scope of work, approximate value of tender, location and other documents, please refer website portal **"www.ireps.gov.in".**
The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (Rolling Stock) / Loco Shed / Erode

In Malnad region, silence and loneliness are the elderly's companions

Sathish G.T.
AGUMBE (SHIVAMOGGA)

Sound of silence: After the death of her husband and son, Jayamma lives alone and takes care of her small arecanut plantation near Doddlimane, in Agumbe of Tirthahalli taluk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jayamma, in her early seventies, begins her mornings by cooking sambar and rice for one. She tends to her small arecanut plantation near Doddlimane, occasionally hiring help for maintenance. Her husband, Srinivas Gowda, passed away 15 years ago. Her son, Prasanna, died some time later while working in Bengaluru. Now she manages her half-acre holding and the heavy silence that surrounds it, alone.

Many houses across Agumbe in Tirthahalli taluk are occupied by solitary elderly residents, predominantly women. While this is the reality of many villages, the terrain of the Malnad specifically – where houses lie scattered across plantations and forest areas – compounds their isolation. Residents must traverse long distances to reach the nearest neighbour. Many of their days pass without encountering another human being.

"What to do? We have adjusted to it. I have to look after an arecanut plantation and another few guntas of agricultural land. Occasionally, I visit my daughter's house, which is a few kilometres away," Ms. Jayamma said.

Her neighbour, Anitha, lives alone most of the time, though she has the company of her son, a degree college student in Tirthahalli.

Ms. Anitha lost her daughter, Ashika, eight years ago in July 2018, in a tragic drowning incident. The girl was crossing a stream while returning from school when she fell from a makeshift footbridge. By then, Ms. Anitha had already lost her husband. In nearby houses, Mahesh Bhat, Parvathakka and Mukamma also live alone.

A consistent pattern

Across the Malnad region in Shivamogga and neighbouring districts, a pattern repeats: children have migrated to cities for education and employment, visiting rarely.

Elders, bound by land, memory and arecanut plantations that demand constant care, choose to stay behind. Houses once bustling with multiple generations have become solitary outposts.

"Children settle in big cities and visit home only during holidays and festivals. The elders are forced to stay here to maintain their plantations," said A.G. Nityanand, a resident of Honnethal. He identified numerous houses in Doddlimane, Honnethal, Donehaklu, Kunda, Changar, Shiruru and Kendalbail where elderly people live alone.

Transport scarcity compounds the problem. Residents depend on private autorickshaws for commuting, often at prohibitive cost. A trip to the fair-price shop for subsidised grain can cost more in autorickshaw fare than the value of the rice itself, Mr. Nityanand pointed out.

More vulnerable

The vulnerability of this isolation became evident in April this year, when a robbery occurred at Lakkunda village near Agumbe. Vishalakshi, 74, who had lived alone since her husband's death (the couple had no children) was robbed during the day. Four men forced their way into her house, restrained her, and fled with 146 grams of gold jewellery and ₹51,000 in cash. The police registered a case and arrested four suspects, recovering the valuables.

Police begin drive to keep in touch

The Hindu Bureau
AGUMBE (SHIVAMOGGA)

Recognising the growing problem, the Shivamogga District Police have launched a special drive to map houses occupied by lone senior citizens. They have identified 1,641 such houses so far, with the survey ongoing and numbers expected to rise.

"Our police will call these residents at least once a week to check on their well-being and provide a sense of security," said Superintendent of Police B. Nikhil. "There are challenges in areas with poor telephone networks. We are exploring alternative measures to maintain contact."

The problem is particularly acute in the Malnad region. "There could be houses with lone senior citizens in big cities and rural areas elsewhere. However, the Malnad presents unique challenges due to terrain," said Suresh Kalkere, who teaches at Honnethal. "In other regions, neighbours are nearby. Here they are not. Moreover, reaching someone is difficult despite mobile phones because network coverage is poor."

'Disclose key post-organ transplant outcome data'

Anil Kumar Sastry
MANGALURU

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Registry (NOTTO) has directed all organ transplant hospitals in the country to publicly disclose key post-transplant outcome data, including long-term survival rates, graft failures and other critical indicators. This followed a letter by MP for Dakshina Kannada Capt. Brijesh Chowta to the Union Health Ministry.

Capt. Chowta in a statement here said he had written to Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on May 22 bringing to his notice a comprehensive report and a set of critical policy recommendations by prominent citizens of Mangaluru, Shyam Kamath and Lionel De Souza.

Certain risks

The report highlighted certain under-reported risks, post-transplant mortality rates and systemic gaps in long-term outcome tracking, particularly concerning cadaveric kidney transplants in India.

Though kidney transplantation remains a vital, life-saving medical intervention, the representation emphasised current public and media narratives overwhelmingly focusing on short-term successes, often leaving out the long-term challenges faced by patients.

A centralised national registry that tracks long-term outcomes, mortality causes beyond hospital discharge and transplant longevity are lacking.

He had urged Mr. Nadda to direct the Ministry to mandate a centralised registry under appropriate national authority to track long-term survival, complications and mortality data; to require hospitals to maintain and transparently publish long-term post-transplant survival metrics, and enhance patient communication protocols to keep families informed about the outcomes of transplants.

Based on Capt. Chowta's letter, NOTTO director Anil Kumar on June 19 asked State authorities to ensure that all registered transplant hospitals under their jurisdiction submit complete and timely data to the national registry to monitor transplant outcomes, improve traceability and support evidence-based policy decisions.

Drama unfolds as HDK 'waits' for Chief Minister in Bairamangala

Kumaraswamy had invited Shivakumar for an 'open discussion' on the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township Project at Bairamangala, while the latter had asked the Union Minister to come to the Vidhana Soudha instead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy during a farmers' protest against the Bidadi Township Project at Bairamangala on Saturday. An empty chair was placed on the dais as a symbolic invitation to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar for an open debate. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Political drama unfolded in Bairamangala on Saturday as Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy arrived in Bidadi for a discussion on the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township Project (Bidadi Township Project) and "waited" for Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Mr. Kumaraswamy had invited the Chief Minister for an "open discussion" on the street of the village, while the latter had invited the former to the Vidhana Soudha for a discussion instead.

After setting up a stage at Bairamangala Circle, where farmers have been protesting against the project for over 470 days, Mr. Kumaraswamy "waited" from afternoon till evening, with a nameboard of Mr. Shivakumar put up on the dais adding to the drama. Hundreds of farmers thronged the site.

Those in support

Meanwhile, farmers supporting the township project gathered at another location and welcomed Mr. Kumaraswamy with red flags, referring to his decision to designate farmlands across Bidadi as a "red zone."

As the Union Minister was leaving the venue, supporters of the township project attempted to lay siege to his vehicle. However, the police brought the situation under control.

Addressing the protesting farmers, Mr. Kumaraswamy announced that he would fight a legal battle on their behalf if Mr. Shivakumar decided to implement the township project. He also hinted that he was prepared to bear all the legal expenses involved.

Claiming that he was not doing this for any political reasons, he said, "If such projects are taken up anywhere in the State, I will stand with the farmers and oppose them."

Responding to allegations regarding the "red zone" classification, Mr. Kumaraswamy claimed that without such a designation, the farmlands would have fallen into the hands of the real estate mafia.

'Fill potholes in city'

Mr. Kumaraswamy also hit back at Mr. Shivakumar's statement that Bidadi would "become Bengaluru", saying, "They are unable to fill potholes in Bengaluru city, yet they want to include Bidadi."

Mr. Kumaraswamy also questioned the Chief Minister's reluctance to visit the protest site despite claiming that 80% of the farmers were willing to part with their land. He asked how his presence could have caused any law-and-order problem if such a large majority of farmers were indeed in favour of the project.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president B.K. Hariprasad on Saturday said policy matters should be discussed in the Vidhana Soudha. "If there has to be a discussion, it should take place in the Vidhana Soudha. That is the essence of parliamentary democracy," he said.

He questioned why some leaders, who had sought public protests over the issue, had not participated when the government invited them for discussions. "One cannot decline an invitation for talks and later demand that the issue be debated on the streets," he said.

Reiterating the government's stand, he said policy decisions should be resolved through democratic institutions and structured consultations.

In official forum

Home Minister Priyank Kharge also said policy matters should be discussed through official forums rather than in public demonstrations. "Whatever the issue, it is appropriate to deliberate on it through official platforms. Holding policy discussions on the streets is not in keeping with democratic conventions," he said.

Fact-finding report on cross-voting points to 'precautions not taken'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The report on cross-voting was compiled by a committee led by C.T. Ravi, MLC.

A three-member committee led by C.T. Ravi, MLC, submitted its fact-finding report on cross-voting from the BJP in the recent Council polls to State chief B.Y. Vijayendra on Saturday.

Speaking to presspersons later, Mr. Ravi refused to divulge any details, but said that the report indicates what precautions should have been taken during the polls. "We gathered a list of suspects after speaking to the candidates, party leaders, and the Chief Whip. We have also considered circumstantial evidence and submitted our report," he said.

He put the total cross-votes from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at 12, and not 11 as the Congress had claimed. He said while both the BJP candidates were assigned 30 votes each, one got 29, with one becoming invalid, and the other candidate got only 27. The JD(S) was supposed to get 22 votes, but got only 14.

He did not clarify as to whether the report could pinpoint either the exact number of cross-votes from BJP MLAs or who they were.

Initially Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok put the number at three from the BJP, but Mr. Vijayendra pegged it at "four to five" the next day. BJP leaders claim three BJP MLAs assigned to the JD(S) candidate and expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal voted for the JD(S), implying cross-voting from the regional party was eight. But the JD(S) has claimed the vote transfer never happened, implying the cross-voting from the BJP could be six.

Mr. Vijayendra, Mr. Ashok, and Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, in-charge of party affairs in the State, were summoned by BJP national president Nitin Nabin on June 23, who reportedly expressed the high command's deep unhappiness. This will likely lead to changes in the State leadership of the party, factions within the State unit speculate.

Tension in Chickballapur town as footwear is hurled at Cong. MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> You [H.D. Kumaraswamy] are targeting an OBC leader, a man from an oppressed community. I am not going to be intimidated by your workers.
>
> **PRADEEP ESHWAR,** Congress MLA

Tension prevailed in Chickballapur town for sometime on Saturday after a confrontation between Pradeep Eshwar, Congress MLA, and JD(S) workers erupted during a Kempe Gowda Jayanti programme, reaching a flashpoint as a slipper was allegedly hurled at the legislator during a procession.

The MLA also described the incident as an "insult meted out to an OBC leader" by JD(S) workers and its leader and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

A group of JD(S) workers are learnt to have entered the venue of the programme and objected to the presence of Mr. Eshwar, the local MLA, on the dais. They opposed his recent remarks against Mr. Kumaraswamy. It is learnt that seers and organisers tried to calm the situation and order was temporarily restored.

However, after he left the event, the situation turned tense again when the Congress MLA allegedly responded defiantly to slogans raised by JD(S) workers against him.

As Mr. Eshwar later travelled in a procession in an open jeep, some protesters allegedly hurled a slipper towards him, which missed him. The police detained the individuals allegedly involved in the incident.

Speaking later, Mr. Eshwar described it as an "insult meted out to an OBC leader" by JD(S) party workes and Mr. Kumaraswamy. "You [Mr. Kumaraswamy] are targeting an OBC leader, a man from an oppressed community. I am not going to be intimidated by your workers," he said.

Expressing solidarity with him, KPCC president B.K. Hariprasad (also an OBC leader) described the incident as "an act of cowardice" and one contrary to "the spirit of dialogue and discussion" that defines Karnataka's political culture. He said Congress stood firmly with him. Congress leaders and supporters of Mr. Eshwar staged a protest in front of the Chickballapur Deputy Commissioner's residence, condemning the incident.

Priyank Kharge seeks clarification on Ram Temple charges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Priyank Kharge

Home Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Uttar Pradesh government to break their silence and clarify on allegations regarding the alleged misuse of donations collected for the construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Comprehensive inquiry

Addressing presspersons at his official residence, Mr. Kharge said there must be complete transparency in the utilisation of funds collected from the public for the temple project. He called for a comprehensive inquiry into the allegations and urged that the findings be placed before the people.

He said it was the responsibility of the Union government to respond to the issue and take appropriate steps to maintain public confidence by ensuring accountability in the handling of donations.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Moti Soli Daruwala
(1931–2026)
Co-founder-Sarala's Art Centre, Chennai. Estb: 1965
Passed away on 23 June 2026.

Fondly remembered by the family, who pray for her peaceful onward journey .

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INBRIEF

Bhadrachalam temple redevelopment work begins

The much-awaited redevelopment works at the renowned Sree Seetha Ramachandra Swamy temple in the temple town of Bhadrachalam in Telangana commenced on Saturday, marking the start of the Phase-I works. In March this year, the State government accorded administrative sanction for ₹351 crore for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of the historic 17th-century temple in Bhadrachalam. A comprehensive master plan has been approved in three phases.

Five youth fined in Munnar for reckless driving; car seized

Five youth were spotted hanging out of the windows and the sunroof of a moving car along the Gap Road stretch of the Munnar-Bodimettu highway on Saturday. Upon noticing the dangerous behaviour, Munnar Dy.SP S. Chandrakumar intercepted the vehicle and had it moved to the Munnar police station. Mr. Chandrakumar stated that fine was imposed on the offenders and an awareness class will be conducted for them.

There are no grounds to book actor Tiny Tom: Kerala Police

The Kerala Police have decided not to register a case over a complaint filed by actor Ansiba Hassan against fellow actor Tiny Tom, accusing him of making communal and defamatory remarks against her. In a report submitted to the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Ernakulam Central, the station house officer of the Kadavanthra police station stated that the investigators could not find solid grounds to register a FIR after a preliminary investigation.

SIT set to submit Sabarimala case report to HC tomorrow

Probe team questions key accused Unnikrishnan Potti again; it looks at board's decision to resend temple's gold-plated copper panels to a firm in Chennai, though they were refurbished in 2016

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala gold theft case has reportedly questioned Unnikrishnan Potti, the prime accused, again, ostensibly to tie up any possible loose ends concerning the previous Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB)'s decision to re-send the temple's gold-plated copper panels to Smart Creations, a metal works factory in Chennai, for electroplating in 2025.

Probe on: The SIT is probing whether fake defects were cited to send the panels at the Ayyappa temple for replating. LEJU KAMAL

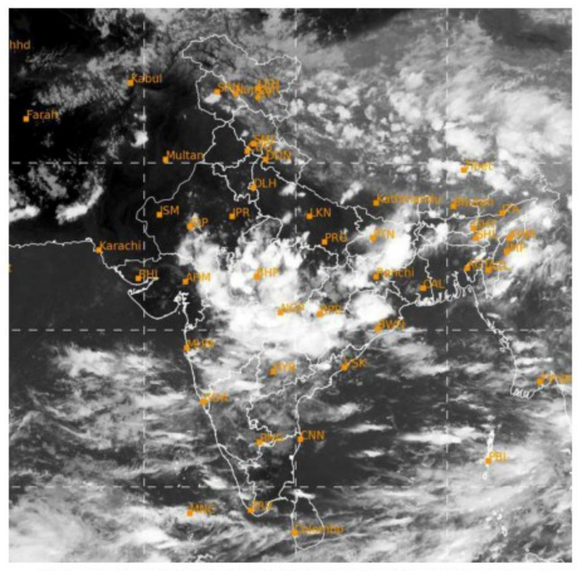
The SIT is scheduled to submit its latest report in the case to the High Court on Monday.

According to officials privy to the investigation, the SIT was reportedly probing whether the previous TDB administration under the LDF government had cited non-existent defects to dispatch the gold-plated copper panels covering the Dwarapalaka statues to Smart Creations for replating to facilitate the suspected pilferage of gold through an in-house chemical process.

They noted that SIT officials were sceptical of the decision's authenticity, given that the TDB had sent the same gold-plated copper panels to Smart Creations in 2019 for repair and refurbishment. The firm then issued a warranty, guaranteeing that the panels would retain their golden sheen for at least 40 years. The firm also promised to repair or replace the panels free of charge if the warranty failed.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: AQICN/CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.8	27.3	Kurnool	—	36.2	26.9
Ahmedabad	—	40.8	29.5	Lucknow	—	41.9	29.5
Aizawl	—	32.0	23.8	Madurai	0.4	38.6	24.8
Bengaluru	—	30.6	21.3	Mangaluru	13.2	31.7	22.9
Bhopal	—	36.3	24.8	Mumbai	0.5	33.4	25.9
Bhubaneswar	—	36.0	27.6	Mysuru	—	32.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	40.2	27.4	New Delhi	—	41.3	30.8
Chennai	—	38.8	28.2	Patna	—	39.6	30.8
Coimbatore	2.4	34.0	22.8	Port Blair	16.3	30.0	24.2
Dehradun	2.3	37.0	26.3	Prayagraj	—	43.2	28.8
Gangtok	14.2	24.8	18.8	Puducherry	—	37.9	28.8
Goa	15.4	30.5	23.8	Pune	1.5	33.5	25.2
Guwahati	—	34.0	27.4	Raipur	—	38.9	26.6
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Ranchi	—	32.5	24.1
Hyderabad	—	31.2	26.0	Shillong	0.1	28.1	17.0
Imphal	—	30.2	25.0	Shimla	12.6	27.8	16.2
Jaipur	—	39.8	29.4	Srinagar	0.4	33.0	18.0
Kochi	10.2	29.2	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	10.4	31.5	25.4
Kohima	—	26.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	39.3	27.0
Kolkata	—	36.2	27.8	Vijayawada	22.5	33.0	25.6
Kozhikode	2.5	34.6	26.0	Visakhapatnam	—	31.4	28.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	.20	37	31	80	—
Bengaluru	.10	.32	60	—	103	—
Chennai	6	6	30	35	286	—
Delhi	—	.13	10	158	300	
Hyderabad	.11	.16	61	65	56	—
Kolkata	9	.20	25	77	92	—
Lucknow	8	.26	43	104	93	—
Mumbai	7	.11	56	31	70	—
Pune	—	.30	80	35	50	—
Visakhapatnam	8	.26	43	104	93	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 261 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ambernath, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ED attack case: plea in HC to cancel bail

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has moved the Kerala High Court seeking the cancellation of bail granted to Harish Kumar, the ninth accused in the attack on Enforcement Directorate officials, during the raid on former Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan's residence in May.

The bail was granted by the Thiruvananthapuram Sessions Court on June 24.

The ED expressed apprehension that the prosecutor of the Sessions Court may have misinformed the court when the bail plea was considered, which resulted in the court granting him bail. The agency suspects that there could be other leaders who have called for the alleged attack, and they have not been investigated.

A PIL is also pending before the High Court, seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the attack.

The court has asked the State to file a statement regarding the steps taken after the FIR was registered for the offence.

Farmers block YSRCP leaders in Amaravati

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Tension flared up in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, as a large number of farmers blocked the entry of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders, including Perni Venkataramaiah, Ambati Rambabu, Lella Appi Reddy and Devineni Avinash, into Undavalli, Penumaka and other villages on Saturday.

The YSRCP leaders, under the banner of the CRDA Rythu Parirakshana Committee, wanted to visit the villages to highlight the injustices allegedly meted out to the farmers who have parted with their land for the construction of Amaravati. Several farmers blocked the entry of the YSRCP leaders into their villages, strongly objecting to the latter's claim of fighting on their behalf. The farmers insisted that the YSRCP leaders had no right to visit Amaravati, accusing them of creating unrest for political gains.

The situation became tense due to stone-pelting.

They eventually left as the farmers refused to let them inspect the lands.

Tax rates on low-alcohol liquor to be included in Finance Bill

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid the political row over lowering the sales tax on low-alcoholic beverages in Kerala, the revised tax rates have been included in the Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026, which will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly on July 1. The rates have been pegged at 120% and 175% respectively for alcoholic beverages with alcohol strength ranging from 0.5% v/v to 10% v/v, and those with strength above 10% v/v and up to 20% v/v. These were the rates announced by Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan in the Revised Budget.

Farm fresh

Tradition revived: A farmer uses a bullock-driven wooden 'ghani' to extract oil through traditional methods on his field on the outskirts of Warangal in Telangana. The age-old practice is seeing renewed interest as consumers seek healthier options. NAGARA GOPAL

Global bids invited for Amaravati riverfront plan

Sambasiva Rao M.
AMARAVATI

The Amaravati Growth and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (AGICL) has invited global bids to appoint a consultant for preparing a comprehensive master plan, detailed project report (DPR) and financial plan for the proposed Amaravati Riverfront Development Project along the Krishna River, with implementation support for a pilot project targeted for completion before Krishna Pushkaralu-2028.

According to the Request for Proposal (RFP), the project is a part of the Andhra Pradesh government's vision to develop Amaravati into a world-class, sustainable and future-ready capital city.

A satellite map showing the location of the proposed Amaravati Riverfront pilot project. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The proposed project covers nearly 27 km of the Krishna River, extending from Undavalli in the east to Vykuntapuram in the west, including seven river islands spread over about 20 square kilometres.

As the first phase, a priority pilot project has been identified at Uddandirayunipalem.

The selected consultant will prepare the master plan, engineering designs, landscape concepts, environmental management strategies and implementation roadmap. The consultant will also assist AGICL in obtaining statutory approvals, preparing tender documents, supporting bid management and supervising implementation of the pilot project.

Kerala HC seeks report on 'gold theft' from *Ezharapponnana*

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has ordered the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) to inspect the temple registers as well as the *Ezharapponnana* of Ettumanur Mahadeva Temple and to submit a report with his opinion and findings on allegations pertaining to the gold plates on the elephant statuettes.

The *Ezharaponnana* idols at the Mahadeva temple, Ettumanur, Kottayam.

The *Ezharapponnana* (which translates to seven-and-a-half golden elephants) consists of eight statuettes of elephants – seven of them two feet high and the eighth one, half the height. The officer was also directed to use the services of a goldsmith so that the weight, quality, and originality of the gold are duly examined. The Division Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan and K.V. Jayakumar was considering the *suo motu* case based on a request by a devotee for an inquiry into the suspected misappropriation of gold on the *Ezharapponnana* and the alleged illegal occupation of temple properties.

The complaint further said that during the repair works carried out on the gold plates covering the *Ezharapponnana*, the original plates were removed and replaced with copper or other low-value metals.

The Administrative Officer and the Assistant Devaswom Commissioner had filed reports stating no records indicated any maintenance work or any misappropriation on the *Ezharapponnana*.

Screenplay maestro, everyday hero takes his last bow

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Renowned Tamil actor, director, writer, and screenwriter K. Bhagyaraj, whose mastery over screenplay was widely acknowledged and who created a storytelling formula that has influenced generations of filmmakers, died on Saturday. He was 73.

Sources said he suffered a massive heart attack. Speaking at his residence, actor Suhasini Maniratnam said Bhagyaraj had returned to Chennai on Friday night after attending actor Khushboo's daughter's wedding in Goa.

On Saturday morning, he went for a walk with his wife Poornima, but complained of chest pain on his return home. He was rushed to Apollo Hospital and efforts were made to resuscitate him, but they proved futile.

K. Bhagyaraj, director, in Madurai. MOORTHY G

Bhagyaraj directed, produced and starred in numerous hit films celebrated for their engaging storylines, memorable songs, and relatable characters. *Mounageethangal*, *Antha Ezhu Naatkal*, and *Munthanai Mudichu* are some of his films being studied even today. Nearly every film of Bhagyaraj spoke loudly about an idea which found an echo within Tamil society.

An assistant of Bharathiraja who also died recently, Bhagyaraj forever changed the perception of the Tamil film hero by proving that wit, intelligence, and ordinariness could be as compelling as physical prowess and a striking presence. He uniquely combined the qualities of a hero and a comedian, making his bespectacled appearances as hero both entertaining and deeply human. His idea of a hero was not even the man next door, but one among the many on the streets.

He also tried his hand at politics, being an ardent fan of M.G. Ramachandran, though he was not very successful in this sphere. He edited the Tamil weekly magazine *Bhagya* and authored several novels as well.

His funeral will be held on Sunday afternoon at the Besant Nagar Crematorium with State honours. Bhagyaraj is survived by his wife Poornima, son Shanthanu, and daughter Saranya. He will be accorded State honours during the cremation, the Tamil Nadu government announced.

Bhagyaraj began working in the Tamil film industry in the mid-1970s as an assistant director under his guide and mentor Bharathiraja, working in iconic films such as *16 Vayathinilale*, *Kizhakke Pogum Rail*, and *Sigappu Rojakkal*. He developed his skills as a dialogue and screenplay writer. His debut as a hero was in the movie *Pudhiya Vaarpugal*, co-starring Rati Agnihotri, and his directorial debut was with the film *Suvarillatha Chithirangal*.

From Page One

Ram Temple row: Trust general secretary quits

However, the war of words over the episode intensified on Saturday, with the Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav vowing to "restore and nurture the eternal glory of Ayodhya as a centre of faith and devotion".

He claimed that a new SP-led Uttar Pradesh government will develop 'Ayodhya' as a unique and exemplary religious city, where devotees will experience true spirituality.

Congress leaders continued to demand the arrest of Mr. Rai and alleged that the government was shielding him.

"Champat Rai is a small fish of the whole nexus, the real thieves are sitting in Delhi. The whole BJP-RSS ecosystem stole money from common devotees and used it to generate hate in society against marginalised sections," senior U.P. Congress leader Anil Yadav said.

It was on June 25 that the Ayodhya police registered a first information report (FIR) in the case, on the basis of a petition from the Trust. Eight accused were booked on charges of embezzlement, criminal conspiracy, fraud and breach of Trust under sections 305, 306, 317, 317 (5), 61 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

All the eight - Avinash Shukla, Anukalp Mishra, Luvkush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey Rama Shankar Mishra, Subhash Srivastava, Rama Shankar Yadav alias Tinnu - were arrested the same day and sent to judicial custody for three days till June 29.

Maharashtra TET put off over 'paper leak'

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has ordered a probe.

The Opposition slammed the government over the alleged leak. "Why is the government not capable of holding a single exam transparently? If it does not act strictly, we will hit the streets," State Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal said.

The decision to postpone the exam was taken after an investigation by the Bhiwandi police in Thane found people in possession of questions similar to those in the TET paper.

"Officials of the Maharashtra State Examination Council [MSEC] were immediately called to the spot. They verified the seized papers. During the investigation, it was observed that some of the questions found with the suspects and the questions in the TET paper were the same," the government statement said.

"The process of organising an examination of this scale typically takes around three weeks. Candidates who had already registered for the examination will not have to register again. Since the candidates are not at fault, no re-registration fee will be charged," MSEC Deputy Commissioner Priya Shinde said. A first information report (FIR) has been registered against three persons, she said, adding that strict action will be taken against those found responsible.

The new date for the examination and other related information will be published on the official website of the MSEC.

The Chief Minister constituted a Special Investigation Team under Thane Joint CP Panjabrao Ugale to probe the paper leak. He also directed School Education Minister Dada Bhuse and DGP Sadanand Date to take strict action against the culprits. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said the accused should be booked under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Telangana to consult other States on VB-G Ram G Act

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cabinet Sub-Committee examining the Union Government's proposed legislation to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act favoured reaching out to other non-BJP ruled States, including Karnataka and Kerala, to explore coordinated legal and political action. The sub-committee, chaired by Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy proposed consultations with the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Kerala to assess whether the two States would be willing to pursue a common legal strategy.

The sub-committee decided to place the issue before the State Cabinet on July 2. The Cabinet is expected to take a final decision on whether Telangana should adopt the Central framework, enact its own legislation, approach the Supreme Court, or pursue a combination of legal and administrative measures.

Members of the committee strongly felt that the proposed law infringes upon the constitutional powers of States and contains several provisions that may not withstand judicial scrutiny. Legal experts informed the committee that they had identified multiple constitutional issues that could form the basis of a challenge before the Supreme Court. The committee held detailed discussions on whether Telangana should challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court instead of implementing it in line with the Centre's guidelines.

The cabinet panel received suggestions from the representatives of nearly 20 civil society organisations that urged the Telangana government to enact its own employment guarantee law.

Modi hands over 'Made in India' vessel to Seychelles

Press Trust of India
VICTORIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday handed over a 'Made in India' Fast Patrol Vessel to the Seychelles Coast Guard, reaffirming New Delhi's commitment to strengthening the archipelago nation's maritime capabilities.

Mr. Modi and Seychelles President Patrick Herminie participated in the handover ceremony at the Coast Guard Base in Victoria, Seychelles, during Mr. Modi's three-day visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the vessel, *PS LESPWAR*, will strengthen Seychelles' maritime surveillance and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol capabilities.

The MEA said Mr. Modi also handed over six ambulances, 10 utility vehicles and five laser radial boats.

"Together as partners. Stronger as one," the MEA said in a post on X, adding that the two countries continue to deepen their defence partnership under India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

SIR enumeration in Delhi and four States to begin on June 30

There are about 19.79 crore voters in Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi; final electoral lists post the SIR will be out on Oct. 7

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The enumeration phase for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi is set to begin from June 30.

There is a total of 19,78,94,740 voters in these four States and Delhi as of May 12. The final voter lists for these States post the SIR process will be published on October 7.

The ongoing third phase of the SIR is being conducted in 16 States and three Union Territories. Over 3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will go house to house to verify 36.73 crore electors, assisted by 3.42 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties in this phase.

Pruning the rolls

With this phase, the exercise will cover the entire country except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The SIR schedule for these will be announced later after considering the completion of Phase-II of the Census and due consideration of the weather in the upper reaches or snow bound areas, the Election Commission of India (EC) said.

When the second phase of the SIR was announced for 12 States/UTs by the EC on October 27, 2025, their cumulative voter base stood at more than 50.99 crore. It now stands at 45.81 crore post the SIR, a decline of over 5.18 crore or a 10.2% cut in the electoral rolls of these States and UTs.

With a number of those States going to the polls in subsequent months, the SIR exercise triggered acrimony between the Opposition and the poll body, and has been challenged in courts as well.

In March, however, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the constitutional validity of the EC's move to carry out the SIR.

Door-to-door: In the ongoing third phase of the SIR, over 3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers will verify 36.73 crore electors. G. RAMAKRISHNA

NIA chargesheets 3 more accused in Red Fort blast case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

With this, 13 persons, including the prime accused who died in the blast, have been chargesheeted

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted three more accused, including an absconder, in connection with the November 2025 car bomb explosion near the Red Fort.

In its supplementary charge sheet, the NIA has named Zameer Ahmad Ahanger, Tufail Ahmad Bhat, and Muzafar Ahmad alias Faraz/Zafar, all from Jammu and Kashmir, as accused. This takes the number of persons chargesheeted to 13, including the prime accused, Umer Un Nabi, who died in the blast.

"Absconding accused Muzafar Ahmed, a paediatrician (MBBS, MD), has been identified as the elder brother of co-accused Dr. Adeel Ahmed Rather and a founding member of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH) – an offshoot of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS)," the agency said.

According to the NIA, Mr. Muzafar could be one of the prime architects, along with co-accused Umer, Muzammil, Adeel, and Mufti Irfan, of the conspiracy that led to the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (IED) blast on November 10, 2025.

"One of the founding members of AGuH Interim, Mr. Muzafar, had attended the secret Eidgah meeting at Srinagar in June 2022, during which the terror module AGuH Interim was established," it said.

The agency alleged that Mr. Muzafar was deeply involved in the manufacture, testing and safekeeping of TATP (triacetone triperoxide)-based IEDs at a clandestine facility run by Umer and Muzammil at Al-Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad. A non-bailable warrant has been issued against him.

As per the NIA, Mr. Zameer is an Overground Worker (OGW) of AGuH Interim. "Tufail, a former OGW of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba terror organisation, had procured ammunition and delivered them to the main accused Dr. Umer Un Nabi," it said.

Parliament was misled by govt. on casualties during Operation Sindoor: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> ...the House was told our soldiers suffered no loss... a year later, the govt. itself released names of 6 soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice. Is this how the govt. chooses to honour them?
>
> **GAURAV GOGOI**
> Congress MP

A day after the government officially released the names of the soldiers who died during Operation Sindoor, the Congress on Saturday accused Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh of misleading Parliament by stating that no Indian soldier had died during the military operation.

The government's disclosure had exposed a contradiction between the Defence Minister's statement in Parliament and the official record, the party said, demanding the Centre place the complete facts relating to the operation before the House during the forthcoming monsoon session.

The Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said that during the parliamentary debate on Operation Sindoor, he had urged the Defence Minister to present "the complete truth" before the Parliament and the nation.

"Instead, the House was unequivocally told that our soldiers had suffered no loss," he said in a post on X. A year later, the government itself had officially released the names of six personnel who had made "the supreme sacrifice" during the operation, Mr. Gogoi added.

'Stark contradiction'

"The government's own admission exposes a stark contradiction. Parliament was misled on a matter of the highest national importance. The families of our martyrs deserve the truth. Our brave soldiers deserve to have their sacrifice acknowledged with honesty and dignity. Is this how the government chooses to honour those who gave their lives in service of the nation?" he said.

Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala also attacked the Centre, alleging that it had failed to speak the truth even on the issue of soldiers' sacrifices. "The age of a lie is short, the truth of martyrdom is indelible. Those who do not speak the truth even for martyrdom, what respect will they show to the martyrs! Those who shamelessly lie in the temple of democracy, who will believe them!" Mr. Surjewala said on X.

Casualties were an inevitable possibility in military operations, senior Congress leader and Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari said, questioning why the government had sought to conceal the facts.

"In a kinetic action casualties do happen. Why obfuscate the facts and dissimulate, and that too to Parliament – the supreme legislative institution of the nation?" he said.

"If there are some other facts pertaining to Operation Sindoor, government should squarely put them on the table of Parliament during the ensuing monsoon session without demur," Mr. Tewari said.

Defence Minister's remarks being taken out of context: govt.

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Saturday rejected the "misleading social media claims" that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had stated that no Indian soldier was killed during Operation Sindoor, asserting that his remarks in Parliament had been selectively quoted and stripped of their context.

On July 28, 2025, while speaking before the Lok Sabha, Rajnath Singh stated that no Indian soldiers were harmed during Operation Sindoor. While speaking for 55 minutes during the 16-hour-long discussion, he said, "If you want to raise a question, then ask whether any of our brave soldiers were harmed in this operation. The answer is, no, none of our soldiers were harmed."

"When the objectives are high then our attention should not be on irrelevant issues. Because by focusing on irrelevant issues at times, our attention gets diverted from important issues related to national security and morale of soldiers," he had said.

'Misrepresented words'

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) clarified in a statement that certain social media posts had misrepresented the Defence Minister's address in Parliament, by isolating a portion of his speech to falsely suggest he denied any Indian military casualties during the cross-border operation.

According to Saturday's clarification, Mr. Singh's remarks were specifically intended to counter a widely circulated false narrative at the time claiming that Indian Air Force pilots had been killed during the operation. "It was in direct reference to this specific and mischievous narrative that the Defence Minister made the statement in question," the MoD said, adding that his remarks were a targeted response to false claims and not a denial of casualties suffered by the armed forces.

The statement emphasised that the Defence Minister's address in Parliament highlighted the success of Operation Sindoor, during which Indian forces carried out precision strikes against terror infrastructure and military targets across the border. It said the operation resulted in the elimination of more than 100 terrorists and Pakistani soldiers, while inflicting significant damage on Pakistani air bases and military infrastructure along the Line of Control.

Despite dip in global fuel prices, Centre is denying relief: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday accused the Narendra Modi government of refusing to pass on the benefit of falling global crude oil prices to consumers, alleging that the Centre was treating the public as a source of tax revenue rather than providing relief.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said international crude oil prices had fallen to pre-West Asia war levels, but petrol, diesel and LPG prices remained high.

Describing it as the BJP's "habit of looting and pickpocketing", he alleged that while crude oil prices had tumbled, the government had continued to "tighten the reins" on household savings instead of reducing fuel prices.

Posing a series of questions to the Centre, Mr. Kharge said that when the conflict in West Asia had pushed crude oil prices to about $138 a barrel, petrol was selling at a retail price of ₹94.77 a litre and diesel at ₹87.67 a litre. With crude oil now down to about $70.71 a barrel, petrol was still being sold at ₹102.12 a litre and diesel at ₹95.20 a litre, he said.

Plea in SC seeks fire safety protocol for high-risk buildings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking the creation of a National Minimum Fire and Life Safety Framework for high-risk public occupancy premises, including schools, coaching centres, hotels, hospitals, and commercial complexes.

The petition, filed by advocate Narendra Kumar Goswami, comes in the wake of two devastating fire incidents in June – the Malviya Nagar guest house fire in Delhi and the Aliganj coaching centre fire in Lucknow, which together resulted in at least 37 deaths.

Mr. Goswami has argued that the recurring pattern of preventable fire fatalities constitutes a systemic constitutional failure.

"The right to life under Article 21 is not a right to be rescued after the fire; it is a right not to be knowingly exposed to preventable fire-death by a regulatory State that has the power, the codes, and the duty to prevent such danger," the petition said.

Rescue operations under way at the building where a massive fire erupted in Aliganj, Lucknow, a few days ago. ANI

The plea sought directions from the court to the government to introduce a system of time-bound fire and electrical safety audits for high-risk public premises; create a centralised, public digital portal displaying valid Fire NOCs, occupancy certificates, and audit compliance status; prohibit the use of basements, rooftops, and temporary structures for classrooms, coaching, or public assembly without explicit safety approval; introduce tamper-proof, QR-coded fire safety certificates carrying severe penal consequences for false certification; constitute District Fire and Life Safety Enforcement Committees headed by District Magistrates; and establish a strict liability compensation protocol for victims of fires occurring in non-compliant premises.

The plea said isolated FIRs and post-facto inquiry committees were constitutionally insufficient.

The petitioner has also asked the Supreme Court to retain a "continuing mandamus" of the fire safety issue until the first national audit cycle and public disclosure portal are fully operational.

States seek review of wages, funding pattern for new rural job scheme

Four States objected to the scheme's blackout period during peak agricultural season; Jharkhand and Punjab demanded wages in line with market conditions, shows Centre's response to RTI plea seeking records of consultations on VB-G RAM G

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Cause for concern: At least five States sought a revision of wage rates and four flagged reservations over the provision of 60 non-working days during the peak agricultural season. ARUN KULKARNI

With the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) for rural employment set to come into effect on July 1, at least five States have sought a revision of wage rates and four had flagged reservations over the provision of 60 non-working days during the peak agricultural season. Three States, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh – both ruled by the BJP – and Jharkhand have explicitly asked for a reconsideration of the proposed change in the funding pattern.

The Union Rural Development Ministry shared this information on a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by Chakradhar Buddha of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI). Mr. Buddha had asked for records relating to meetings and consultations organised by the Union Government with the States regarding VB-G RAM G and the transition from the preceding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to the new scheme.

In its reply, the government shared responses of only 13 States. Of them, almost all States had pointed to delays in wage and related payments, seeking early clearance of dues.

As per the interim allocation made under VB-G RAM G, Bihar will have to pay ₹4,477 crore. As per an analysis done by NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, this amount is inadequate to keep the government's promise of providing 125 days of work. The analysis estimates that Bihar would have to pay ₹15,939 crore to achieve this goal. Similarly, in the case of Madhya Pradesh, the burden on the State is ₹4,168 crore, which would suffice only to provide 43 days of work. For 125 days, the financial liability on the State will be ₹20,037 crore. Jharkhand, to meet the 40% share, will have to shell out ₹1,804 crore as per the current allocation, which only suffices for 41 days. It will have to pay ₹9,293 crore to meet the 125-day commitment. Unlike Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, the two BJP-ruled States, Jharkhand explicitly said during the post-legislative consultation that bearing the 40% share will be difficult for the State.

Even States such as Sikkim and Uttarakhand, which fall under the 90:10 Centre-State sharing pattern [applicable to the northeastern and Himalayan States], had sought a review of the clause. Uttarakhand, citing its terrain-related challenges, argued that the Centre should continue bearing 100% of the wage bill.

Of the 13 States, five demanded a hike in the wages of workers. MGNREGA wages were far below the market rate. Bihar sought a hike in the wages from the present ₹255 to ₹413, while Jammu & Kashmir sought an increase in the wages from ₹272 to ₹311. Both Jharkhand and Punjab argued that the wages should be competitive and in line with market conditions.

Blackout period

At least four of the 13 States objected to the scheme's 60-day blackout period, proposed during the peak agricultural season. The government had hailed this break as an important step to make labour easily available, while activists had criticised it, saying it will reduce the workers' bargaining power. Among the States critical of this clause was Punjab, which is heavily dependent on agriculture.

In a policy reversal, Punjab govt. notifies VB-G RAM G scheme; Cong. slams move

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

Bhagwant Mann

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, which had been opposing the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G), has notified the rural employment scheme, which will come into force from July 1 in the State.

In December 2025, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's government had convened a special session of the Punjab Assembly, which had unanimously passed a resolution against the VB-G RAM G Act. The Assembly had accused the BJP-led Central government of "taking away" the livelihood of poor and Dalit labourers by scrapping the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) under a "deliberate conspiracy". The House had recommended that the Punjab government urge the Centre to immediately restore MGNREGA to its original rights-based form.

The June 26, 2026 gazette notification presented a U-turn from that position. "In order to align the rural development framework with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 by providing an enhanced statutory wage employment guarantee of one hundred and twenty five (125) days in each financial year to such rural households whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work... And to focus on employment, growth, convergence and saturation, the government of Punjab is pleased to notify the VB-G RAM G Scheme, Punjab 2026," the notification, issued by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, read.

Congress slams AAP

The Opposition Congress slammed the AAP government, asking under what "deal and compromise" with the BJP had it implemented this scheme in Punjab.

The timing of the scheme's implementation was as important as it was surprising, Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said. "Does the sudden implementation of the scheme have something to do with the ongoing controversy related to the Chief Minister?" he said, referring to the recent sacrilege video controversy linked to Mr. Mann.

Mr. Warring also asked AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal to explain if he approved of Mr. Mann implementing the scheme in Punjab.

"Kejriwal must break his silence and clarify his position", he remarked, adding, "Otherwise it will be established that the AAP actually has struck some opportunistic deal with the BJP".

Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, asked AAP what had changed between December 2025 and today.

Punjabis deserve answers, he said, asking if the special session was merely political theatrics.

Uddhav calls for 'BJP-mukt' Ram; rejects 'temple-looting Hindutva'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Uddhav Thackeray

Calling for a 'BJP-mukt' Ram, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday hit out at the BJP, alleging that the saffron party had betrayed the Hindus and Hindutva. He was speaking on the alleged charges of the swindling of donations in Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. "There was an emotionally charged environment [over the Ram Mandir issue]. Hinduhridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray had himself toured the State, asking for people's contribution. What happened to the money given by the Shiv Sena? Now, money, gold, silver is being stolen from Ram Mandir. They [the BJP] have betrayed Hindus, Hindutva," he said in a rally at Yavatmal on the first day of his three-day tour.

"Real Hindutva teaches humanity. We reject your [BJP's] Hindutva of looting temples. We want 'BJP-mukt Ram' and Shiv Sena (UBT) will lead such protests," he said.

Appealing to the people of Maharashtra, he said that the voters need to question not just the defected MPs, but also the BJP which wanted to finish off the Opposition. "This is the Maharashtra of Shahu-Phule-Ambedkar. Will it stand against them and ask them questions?" he asked.

Terming the BJP as 'Pakistan Janata Party', he said the party had betrayed not just its allies, but also lord Ram. Slamming the national party over the government's stand that a passport is not a proof of citizenship, he asked if BJP's membership was the only proof of citizenship. "This is not the Bhartiya Janata Party. If it behaves in this manner, we are concerned if it is the Pakistan Janata Party," he said.

'High-level discussion'

Earlier in the day, he took a jibe at reporters when asked about the discussion with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Mr. Fadnavis and Uddhav Thackeray travelled to Nagpur on the same flight on June 26, leading to political speculations.

"We had a high-level discussion. The details of the meeting will be out soon," he said.

Cong. demands dissolution of Ram temple trust over donation 'embezzlement' case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress workers stage a protest against the alleged theft of donations from the Ram Temple, in Kanpur. FILE PHOTO

The Congress on Saturday stepped up its attack on the Union government and the Uttar Pradesh government over the alleged embezzlement of donations made to the Ram temple in Ayodhya, questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the issue.

The party reiterated its demand to dissolve the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

The Prime Minister owed an explanation to devotees across the country as the Trust had been constituted by the Union government, and its members had been appointed under its watch, senior Congress leader Akhilesh Pratap Singh said, addressing a press conference in New Delhi.

"The entire nation, particularly those who have faith in Sanatan Dharma, wants to know who stole donations worth thousands of crores of rupees," Mr. Singh said. Despite serious accusations against members of the Trust, no action had been taken against them, he alleged.

The Congress demanded that the Trust be disbanded and all those facing *prima facie* allegations be arrested to ensure an impartial investigation.

Mr. Singh also called for a probe under the supervision of a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

Reports of irregularities had surfaced since the temple's construction began, he alleged, referring to the controversy over land acquisitions in Ayodhya as well as the alleged diversion of donations.

The internal inquiries commissioned by the Trust into earlier allegations were ignored, he said, questioning the removal of cash-counting agent Mahipal Singh after he reportedly flagged irregularities.

CCTV cameras had been removed and their footage deleted, Mr. Singh alleged.

"The Trust has lost the trust of the people. Daily donations have reportedly fallen from ₹10 lakh-₹15 lakh to about ₹80,000 following reports of the alleged theft," he said.

Speaking to journalists in Kerala's Wayanad, Congress general secretary and Lok Sabha member Priyanka Gandhi Vadra described the allegations as "tragic" and "shameful".

"People from all over the country, those who believe and those who have faith, gave donations, and now those donations have been stolen. It is tragic, it is shameful, and the government needs to inquire into what has happened, how it has happened, and why it has happened," she said.

"Women gave from their savings, poor people contributed from their homes. These are not just funds from big corporates; they were collected from ordinary citizens. If you collected them, it is your responsibility to keep them safe," she said.

The Congress also accused the government of applying different standards, alleging that while Opposition leaders were subjected to investigations by Central agencies on "minor suspicions", no comparable action had been taken against those facing allegations in the Ram temple donation case.

Akhilesh vows to develop Ayodhya as 'unique religious city'

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Amid the Ram Temple embezzlement case, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday vowed to restore and nurture the eternal glory of Ayodhya as a centre of faith and devotion.

He claimed that a new SP-led government of Uttar Pradesh will develop Ayodhya as a unique and exemplary religious city, where devotees will experience true spirituality.

"We take this pledge with righteousness and truthfulness that by forming a new government, we will develop 'Ayodhya' as a unique and exemplary religious city, where devotees coming from all over the world will experience true spirituality. With the blessings of the Lord, we will restore and nurture the eternal glory of Ayodhya as 'Siyaram-Dham' of faith, devotion, unwavering belief and true spirit...," Mr. Yadav wrote on social media platform X.

The SP further said that the ideas of Lord Ram are inherently socialist and these ideals have been followed by the party and its ideological forefathers.

"Socialists in India believe in the ideas and teachings of Lord Ram. Our icon, Ram Manohar Lohia, was the first leader in independent India to start the Ramayan Mela in the 1960s. We want a socialist, democratic India based on the teachings of Lord Ram. Our leader, Akhilesh Yadav *ji*, is carrying forward Lohia *ji*'s rich socialist legacy...," said Sunil Singh Yadav 'Sajan', the SP spokesperson.

Sujata Rout no ordinary cadre; ex-IAS officer's entry key to BJD's revival push

NEWS ANALYSIS

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Far from remaining a rank-and-file entrant, Sujata Rout already appears to occupy a central position in the party's affairs. PTI

Biju Janata Dal supremo Naveen Patnaik recently inducted Sujata Rout, wife of his close aide V.K. Pandian, into the party stating that she would function as an "ordinary" member and learn over time.

However, the prominence she has quickly assumed suggests otherwise. Far from remaining a rank-and-file entrant, Ms. Rout already appears to occupy a central position in the party's affairs.

Over the past two days, photographs of her visit to the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri accompanied by a Rajya Sabha MP and other senior leaders as well as her meeting with Pranab Prakash Das, a senior BJD leader known for his organisational skills, have flooded social media.

According to BJD insiders, Mr. Das, once a powerful member of the party's core group, had in recent months appeared to distance himself from party activities following its defeat in the 2024 Assembly election. Ms. Rout's meeting with him is being viewed as an effort to bridge internal divisions and bring different factions together.

Seniors reach out

At Sankha Bhawan, which is the BJD party headquarters, senior women leaders on Thursday escorting her into the hall and senior leaders reaching out to her for small interactions during her inductions are important signals that Ms. Rout would play a key role in the party's regrouping.

"The BJD leadership recognises that the regional party retains inherent strength to counter the Bharatiya Janata Party's advance. Otherwise, it would have fallen apart like the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. Even two years after its defeat, the party continues to remain politically active," said Vijay Mohanty, a political commentator. Mr. Mohanty added that leaders leaving the party represents only a temporary setback.

Former Chief Minister Mr. Patnaik's remark on Ms. Rout, "I am sure that as time passes and she settles into her new role, she will learn to help people, particularly women," suggests that the former IAS officer is not being positioned as an ordinary party worker. Rather, it indicates that she is expected to step into a leadership role.

Help end 'proxy war', Naga body urges PM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The United Naga Council (UNC), the apex body of 21 Naga tribes in Manipur, has demanded the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's immediate intervention in the "rapidly deteriorating situation" in the Northeastern State, especially in Naga areas.

Leaders of the UNC told journalists in New Delhi on Saturday that the organisation, along with the Naga Women's Union and the All Naga Students' Association, Manipur, submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister, seeking action against the "proxy war" by armed Kuki groups against the Nagas.

The UNC also demanded a time-bound, independent, and court-monitored probe into the abduction and brutal killing of six Naga civilians earlier this month.

Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
(An Autonomous Institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)
Website: www.cancerinstitute.edu.in email: procurementservices.kssci@gmail.com

CANCELLATION OF NOTING INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute (KSSSCI), Lucknow, the Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for the *One-Time Replacement of PVC Fills* vide Advertisement No. **KSSSCI/EOI-02/2026-27** dated 24.06.2026 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Advt.No. : KSSSCI/EoI-04/2026-27 DIRECTOR

INBRIEF

Vigil stepped up over security threat to Delhi, Uttarakhand

Intelligence agencies have issued a security alert for Delhi and Uttarakhand following a possible Khalistani terror threat, with key religious sites, government establishments and police installations put under heightened surveillance, sources said on Saturday. According to sources, the alert was triggered after an email surfaced warning of possible attacks in the coming days. This threat comes in the backdrop of a standoff at the Nagrasu gurdwara in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district between a group of Nihangs and the authorities. Sources said the Delhi Police have launched a probe into the email to ascertain its authenticity and trace its origin. PTI

Civilian dies in explosion near LoC in Jammu and Kashmir

A civilian was killed in an explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Gulmarg area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday, officials said. Officials identified the victim as Zabir Ahmad Bajad, son of Mohammad Rafiq Bajad, a resident of Baramulla district. Initial official assessment suggested that the civilian died after an unexploded shell went off. However, the Army and the police could not provide details about the exact circumstances leading to the blast. The unexploded shell was apparently lying close to the Asha Post near the LoC in Gulmarg.

Second body recovered after floods in Arunachal Pradesh

Rescue teams on Saturday recovered the body of one of the four persons missing after a cloudburst and resultant flash floods hit a hydropower project colony in Arunachal Pradesh's Keyi Panyor district on June 24. The district's SP, Angad Mehta, said locals identified the victim as 30-year-old Ballari Marak, hailing from Meghalaya's Ri-Bhoi district. Hers was the second body recovered after that of Nirmala Gupta, 35, a teacher at NEEPCO's Vivekananda Kendriya Vidyalaya, on the day of the disaster. "The State Disaster Response Force and Keyi Panyor police personnel are continuing the search and rescue operations for three other missing persons, despite adverse conditions," Mr. Mehta said.

Assam police arrest 2 ULFA(I) members, avert 'terror strike'

The Assam police claimed it averted a major terror strike by apprehending two members of the banned United Liberation of Asom (Independent) in Tinsukia district on Friday. They were identified as "second lieutenant" Humenjyoti Baruah (27), and Papu Moran (30). Tinsukia's Superintendent of Police, Mayank Kumar, said the duo was caught with the help of central agencies near Arunachal Pradesh border. Two AK-56 assault rifles, two hand grenades, 172 rounds of AK ammunition, opioids, and jungle survival kits were recovered from them. "The ULFA(I) had tasked them to target and kill people in Tinsukia town to create terror," he said.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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1	3	2	9	6	7	5	4	8
9	6	5	3	8	4	1	2	7
8	4	7	1	5	2	9	6	3

How saving elephants helps forests breathe easier

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Protecting the endangered Asiatic elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) indirectly helps safeguard India's forests as powerful carbon stores, a new scientific study has said.

The research, however, warned that long-term carbon stabilisation cannot be ensured merely by declaring more areas as elephant reserves but by improving habitat quality, restoring wildlife corridors, and strengthening forest management. Carbon stabilisation, a vital mechanism for removing greenhouse gases and mitigating climate change, is the process of trapping atmospheric carbon and locking it into stable, solid forms (such as in soil or organic matter). This helps resist decay, erosion, or the release of carbon back into the atmosphere.

The study, published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, assessed the relationship between elephant conservation efforts, the expansion of elephant reserves, and wildlife-associated carbon stock enhancement in India from 1992 to 2025. Noida-based Amity University's Tarun Kathula and Tanu Jindal are its authors.

The researchers found that India's elephant reserve network expanded from 18,297 sq. km. (across three elephant reserves) to 80,777 sq. km. (33 elephant reserves), while the elephant population increased by about 6.7% from 25,604 estimated during 1992-93. Despite the marginal increase in the number of pachyderms, the estimated carbon stored within the elephant reserves increased by 38%.

The increase should not be interpreted as the elephants directly creating more forest biomass, the researchers said, as it "primarily reflects enhanced protection and reduced degradation of pre-existing forest carbon stocks."

Elephants remain ecologically vital, despite their limited contribution to faunal biomass, the researchers said. THULASI KAKKAT

The study estimated that about 95% of the increase in carbon storage resulted from the expansion of protected forest areas. However, elephant reserves are not uniformly conserved in the same manner as legally designated national parks or tiger reserves.

Ecosystem engineers

Elephants, often described as ecosystem engineers, remain ecologically vital, despite their limited contribution to faunal biomass, the researchers said. The gentle giants, they pointed out, disperse seeds, enrich soils with dung, create space for diverse vegetation, and help maintain healthy forests capable of storing carbon over the long term.

The researchers also found a weak relationship between the number of elephant reserves and the elephant population growth, suggesting that administrative declarations alone cannot secure the species' future if habitats remain fragmented or poorly managed.

Declining numbers

The study further underlined a worrying trend – the decline in elephant numbers under a new census methodology called Synchronised All-India Elephant Estimate (SAIEE) 2021-25, while the number of elephant reserves has stabilised. The SAIEE count of 22,446 was 4,065 elephants fewer than the 2017 estimate, but the enumerators asserted that the two different counting methods should not be compared.

Comparable patterns were observed in the African savannah ecosystems, where mega-herbivore management improved vegetation carbon stocks by 20-30%. "Such consistency across regions supports the ecological principle that mega-fauna protection complements forest-carbon goals," their study said. "Policy integration of these results can strengthen India's commitments to achieve 2.5-3 billion tCO_2 (total carbon dioxide) equivalent additional carbon sink by 2030. Incorporating wildlife-inclusive accounting within REDD+ frameworks could generate measurable ecosystem-service credits while ensuring co-benefits for biodiversity," the study said. REDD expands to 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation'.

U.S. names Indian firm, CEO in Sudan sanctions

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

The U.S. imposed sanctions on eight persons and entities, including an Indian national associated with an explosives manufacturing firm, for allegedly fuelling the civil war in Sudan.

The U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on Friday said the targeted networks enabled both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to expand and intensify civil war in the African nation and created the "world's worst humanitarian crisis and provided space for terrorist groups to operate".

Among the sanctioned individuals is Alok Choudhari of Raipur, the Chief Executive Officer of SBL Energy Limited, also known as Amin Explosive Private Limited, which allegedly supplied over 200 shipments of explosives and materials to a company that maintained the SAF's arsenal.

The Treasury Department also imposed sanctions on Raipur-based SBL Energy Limited.

Shah attacks cab aggregators over 'unfair' business model

Union Minister says newly launched cooperative ride-hailing platform Bharat Taxi is an alternative that will safeguard interests of drivers, passengers; it will expand to over 500 cities within 2 years

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched a sharp attack on private app-based cab aggregators such as Uber and Ola, alleging that their business model exploits both drivers and commuters through practices that prioritise corporate profits over fair treatment. He said the newly launched cooperative ride-hailing platform, Bharat Taxi, was conceived to provide an alternative that safeguards the interests of drivers while ensuring better service for passengers.

Addressing the launch of Bharat Taxi in 14 cities across Gujarat, Mr. Shah, without naming the companies, alleged that private platforms deduct hefty commissions from drivers, delay payments and suspend their registrations based solely on passenger complaints without giving them an opportunity to present their case.

He said the cooperative model was introduced to eliminate such practices and ensure that drivers are treated as stakeholders rather than service providers dependent on private companies.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah takes a taxi ride during the launch of 'Bharat Taxi' in Gujarat. PTI

Competitors' challenge

"I received phone calls today and some newspapers have reported that Bharat Taxi's fares are higher. I want to tell customers across the country that wherever Bharat Taxi begins operations, competing companies immediately slash their fares and are prepared to incur losses. Our intention is not to inflict losses on anyone, but reducing fares and offering higher commissions to *sarathis* (drivers) is being done only to prevent Bharat Taxi from entering the market," he said.

"They want Bharat Taxi to fail so they can once again function arbitrarily," he said, adding that such strategies would not succeed in India, where "the spirit of cooperation and the desire to work for the welfare of others are the greatest strength".

Bharat Taxi, which was soft-launched in Gujarat last December, is being projected as India's first cooperative-owned, driver-led ride-hailing platform. Operating on a zero-commission model, it allows drivers to retain the entire fare while also giving them ownership in the platform.

The platform was formally launched in Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dwarka, among other cities across Gujarat. It will initially offer services in three categories – two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws and four-wheelers.

Mr. Shah said Bharat Taxi would begin operations in Nagpur, Pune, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Kolkata before July 31, and services would be extended to more than 500 cities and towns over the next two years.

Addressing the drivers, he said they had become part of the country's larger cooperative movement, which already includes crores of farmers.

It is theft of youth's future: Rahul on TET 'paper leak'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday described the alleged paper leak and postponement of the Maharashtra Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) as "theft" of the future of youngsters.

"Another paper leak. Another exam cancelled. This time, Maharashtra's TET," he said.

"The country's education and examination system has been turned into a system of extortion, leaving every youngster in the country insecure," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha said in a post in Hindi on X.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also voiced concern over the matter.

In a post on X, she said, "Youth, wake up!!! Until you raise your voice loud and clear, this terror with your future will continue unabated. You've been deceived once again."

Congress leader Pawan Khera slammed the government over the development, claiming that it seems determined to score a "shameful century".

Govt. to launch affordable digital management system for clinics

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Ministry proposes to open light HMIS for govt. primary health centres, sub-centres and private clinics

Aimed at helping small outpatient clinics that face challenges with manual processes and lack of affordable digital solutions, the Union Health Ministry is all set to launch the e-Sushrut@Clinic.

eSushrut@Clinic is a light Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), created by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to address these challenges by providing a simple, affordable, and user-friendly digital solution specifically tailored for small outpatient clinics.

"Large HMIS are often too complex and costly for these clinics and this results in small clinics struggling with inefficiencies in digitisation of the health system," said a release issued by the Ministry.

It added that the need of having a government-backed and affordable HMIS has been coming from various microsite participants in spite of a large number of private HMIS players. Many States/Union Territories have also expressed interest to use a light HMIS for their public facilities.

The Ministry proposes to open the light HMIS for government primary health centres, sub-centres and private clinics, etc.

C-DAC implementing it

Currently, over 800 health facilities are onboarded on eSushrut@Clinic, generating over 680 health records. C-DAC is also implementing the eSushrut software, which is being installed at more than 15 AIIMS and in various State government hospitals.

Listing the features, the Ministry said that e-Sushrut@Clinic provides a lightweight, cloud-based HMIS designed specifically for outpatient clinics which simplifies tasks like patient registration, billing, etc., thus making work easier and reducing mistakes. C-DAC will take care of maintenance and upgradation of the software.

"It is designed to be simple and intuitive, with no technical expertise needed from clinic staff. Also, this simple platform can be accessed from any device, without needing complex setups," said the release.

The cost of eSushrut@clinic is estimated to be ₹499 per month for five users. A discount of ₹200 will be given making the effective rate to be ₹299 per month. The software will be offered at no cost for the initial three months. Each additional user beyond the included five-user limit will be charged at a rate of ₹50 per user.

CGHS enhances financial powers of officials to expedite treatment

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Changes expected to benefit pensioners, elderly – accounting for a substantial share of CGHS users

In a move aimed at reducing delays in medical treatment and reimbursement under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), the Union Health Ministry has now substantially enhanced the financial powers of senior CGHS officials to approve cashless treatment, settle medical reimbursement claims and sanction unlisted investigations and procedures.

The revised delegation of powers enables additional directors heading CGHS cities and zones, as well as senior officials at the CGHS headquarters, to approve significantly higher-value cases than before. The changes are expected to reduce the number of proposals that require referral to higher authorities, speeding up decisions on treatment approvals and claim settlements.

Under the revised delegation, additional directors heading CGHS cities and zones can now sanction medical reimbursement claims and hospital bills at approved rates – of up to ₹15 lakh, compared with the earlier limit of ₹7 lakh, for directors the revised power stands at ₹25 lakh from ₹15 lakh, and for Additional Secretary and DG, CGHS has revised financial approval power of ₹50 lakh, up from ₹25 lakh.

Cases exceeding ₹50 lakh shall continue to be referred to the Union Health Ministry for approval with the concurrence of the Integrated Finance Division.

For unlisted investigations/procedures and implants, additional directors heading CGHS cities and zones, director, and additional secretary and DG, have revised approval powers up to ₹2 lakh, ₹5 lakh and ₹10 lakh respectively.

The order, dated June 25, now raises the financial limits for settling medical reimbursement claims submitted by beneficiaries after treatment. Such claims, particularly those involving high-cost procedures or emergency care, have often required multiple levels of scrutiny before reimbursement could be sanctioned.

Speaking about the revision, a senior health official said the changes are expected to particularly benefit pensioners and elderly beneficiaries, who account for a substantial share of CGHS users and often require costly tertiary care.

Delays in administrative approvals and reimbursement of medical expenses have remained among the most common grievances of beneficiaries.

INBRIEF

U.S. judge won't immediately dismiss charges against Adani

A U.S. judge on Friday ordered the Justice Department to justify its decision to drop criminal charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani, declining to rule immediately on Adani's lawyers' request earlier in the week to formally dismiss the case. Adani was charged in 2024 with agreeing to bribe Indian government officials so a subsidiary of his Adani Group could win approval to develop a solar plant, and then misleading U.S. investors by providing reassuring information about his company's anti-corruption practices. Adani Group has consistently denied wrongdoing. The Justice Department said last month it would no longer pursue the prosecution. Adani's lawyers on Wednesday asked Brooklyn-based U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis to formally dismiss the case. REUTERS

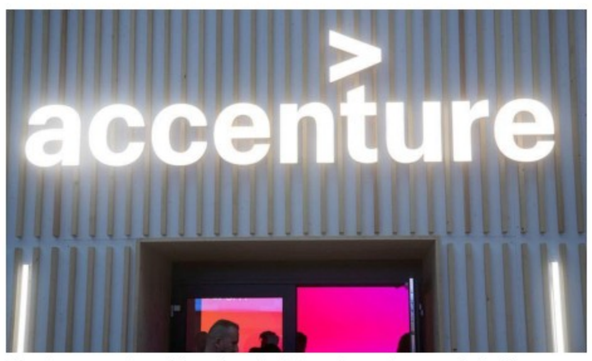
Vaswani to quit as Kotak Bank MD after three-year tenure

Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday said its MD and CEO Ashok Vaswani will quit upon completion of a three-year tenure and will not seek re-appointment when his current term ends on December 31, 2026. The veteran banker assumed charge of the bank on January 1, 2024. "Ashok Vaswani, Managing Director & CEO of the bank, has informed the board that, for personal reasons, he does not wish to seek re-appointment upon completion of his current term on December 31, 2026," Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a regulatory filing. "The board has, at its meeting held today, respected his decision and has initiated the process for the appointment of a new Managing Director & CEO. The process will be completed within applicable regulatory timelines," it said. Mr. Vaswani replaced Dipak Gupta, who was the interim MD and CEO, following founder-director Uday Kotak's sudden stepping down as the head of the bank. PTI

Accenture's revenue growth guidance cut shocks tech industry

Stance to impact growth valuations, order books of Indian players, signal widespread deal slippage, slower pipeline-to-revenue conversion rates

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU



The downward revision signalled that the tech sector is facing a profound slowdown rather than a temporary cyclical blip. REUTERS

Global tech bellwether Accenture's recent downward revenue revision seems to have further dampened the spirit of the information technology sector worldwide and Indian IT in particular, opined top sector analysts.

Accenture's cautious stance would impact the growth valuations and order books of Indian IT services players while it may also signal widespread deal slippage and slower pipeline-to-revenue conversion rates across the industry globally, they forecast.

Accenture recently narrowed its full-year 2026 revenue growth guidance to 3-4%, down from 3-5% earlier, triggering an immediate plunge in its own stock prices and throwing the rest of the global tech services industry, which is already hit by global uncertainties, into a new tizzy.

The longer decision-making cycles, partially impacted by regional conflicts in West Asia, costing roughly $100 million in expected revenue, have fundamentally slowed conv ersion rates for Accenture.

Avinash Vashistha, Chairman & CEO of Tholons, a New York-based tech consulting firm and former Chairman & CEO of Accenture in India said, "The macro numbers tell only a surface story and this downward revision is a macroscopic warning indicator. The immediate implication is a sharp re-pricing of firms that rely heavily on traditional linear headcount models."

Peter Bendor-Samuel, Founder and Executive Chairman of Dallas-based Everest Group said, an 18% reduction on the share price of Accenture on June 18 in a single trading session, was bound to have a cascading effect on the rest of the tech sector.

Global analyst firm Gartner also forecast that Accenture's downward revenue revision signalled the global technology sector was facing a profound structural slowdown rather than a temporary cyclical blip.

"Enterprises are tightening their financial belts in response to layered macroeconomic shocks and geopolitical conflicts, subjecting all large-scale digital initiatives to unprecedented, rigid return on investment scrutiny. This heightened caution has created a severe bottleneck where impressive, high-volume project pipelines are failing to convert into immediate revenue because clients are stretching out execution milestones to conserve capital," explained D.D Mishra, VP Analyst at Gartner.

According to him, corporate technology budgets have effectively frozen into a zero-sum game of forced reallocation. Instead of expanding total IT spend, boardrooms are aggressively flatlining or gutting traditional infra and maintenance budgets to fund mandatory cybersecurity and AI compliance mandates, he added.

Persistent to acquire Germany's Nagarro for €1.1 billion

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Galaxy Germany Holding SE, a wholly owned direct subsidiary of Pune-based Persistent Systems Ltd., and its parent firm have announced a voluntary public takeover offer for all outstanding shares in Munich-based Nagarro SE for a cash consideration of €81 per share, valuing the company at €1.1 billion (₹11,820 crore).

Nagarro is into digital engineering with 18,500 employees across 40 countries, with deep roots in industrial, consumer, TMT and BFSI verticals and a total revenue of €1 billion (CY25), according to a company release.

The offer follows the signing of a Business Combination Agreement between Persistent and Nagarro. "The proposed combination is designed to create a scaled, globally diversified AI-led digital engineering and enterprise modernisation powerhouse with at-scale presence in North America and Europe and a meaningful Rest of the World exposure," the company said in the release.

The combined Persistent - Nagarro group would be better positioned to support multi-region enterprise clients requiring integrated AI, engineering, ERP / CX, data and cloud capabilities across local and global delivery models. The combination will create a $2.9 billion AI-led engineering entity with over 46,000 employees across more than 40 countries, it added.

Anand Deshpande

Anand Deshpande, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director, Persistent Systems said, "AI is reshaping our industry at an unprecedented pace. Success will belong to companies that combine deep technical capability with global reach, while continuing to attract, develop and inspire exceptional people."

"Together, Persistent and Nagarro will be better positioned to help our clients navigate this new era, create greater opportunities for our teams, and build an organisation that will endure for many years to come," he said.

Sandeep Kalra, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Persistent Systems said, "The next wave of enterprise transformation will be defined by AI, engineering excellence, and global scale. Bringing Nagarro and Persistent together is a defining milestone in our journey to build a global, engineering-led technology services leader," he said.

External review clears HDFC Bank of ex-chairman's concerns

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

HDFC Bank said an independent legal review conducted by two external law firms found no evidence to substantiate concerns raised by former chairman Atanu Chakraborty in his resignation letter or subsequent public statements.

The bank said the review, announced on March 24, examined whether any concerns flagged by Mr. Chakraborty were evident from the records, whether he had recorded any dissent during his tenure, and whether such dissent, if any, had been addressed.

Mr. Chakraborty resigned as chairman of the country's second biggest lender, HDFC Bank, citing ethical concerns. This was the first time that a part-time chairman of HDFC Bank left mid-way, raising concerns over its functioning. "Certain happenings and practices within the bank, that I have observed over the last two years, are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics. This is the basis of my aforementioned decision," he said in his resignation letter dated March 17.

The review was carried out by Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, P C and Wadia Ghandy & Co. over a three-month period, HDFC Bank said in a filing.

The external law firms repeatedly requested Mr. Chakraborty to participate in the review, but the interview did not take place.

Conclave calls on MSMEs to innovate and scale up to expand their global footprint

BL Bureau
COIMBATORE

Making a point: Jairam Varadaraj, MD, ELGI Equipments speaking at the MSME Growth Conclave. BIJOY GHOSH

Innovation-led growth, technology adoption and stronger regional industrial collaboration emerged as the key themes at the fifth edition of *The Hindu businessline's* MSME Growth Conclave, co-powered by the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and Central Bank of India, held in Coimbatore on Saturday.

Setting the context, Jairam Varadaraj, Managing Director of ELGI Equipments, in his keynote address, said Indian companies must stop depending on government support and low-cost manufacturing as their primary growth strategy and instead focus on building globally competitive, innovation-led businesses.

He urged companies to move away from 'Me-too' products and create 'Me-First products' by identifying customers' unstated needs rather than merely responding to existing demand. Businesses, he said, should build capabilities based on 'know why' – deep scientific understanding – rather than just 'know how', and look beyond India's relatively small domestic market to tap global opportunities.

Ravichandran Purushothaman, Chairman of CII Southern Region and President of Danfoss India, identified three major challenges confronting MSMEs – shortage of skilled manpower, rising electricity costs and uncertainty in order inflows. He called on MSMEs to invest in digital technologies, automation and energy-efficient solutions to improve productivity and operational visibility.

Rather than concentrating on asset ownership, entrepreneurs should build businesses around knowledge, IP and scalable business models, which he described as the 'new money' that would define future competitiveness. He also stressed the importance of corporate governance, stock market listing and stronger cash generation instead of focussing solely on topline growth, he said in a conversation with Richa Mishra, Resident Editor, *businessline*.

Making a pitch for Kerala as an investment destination, Arun K. Vijayan, Director of Industries and Managing Director of KSIDC, said the State was positioning itself as the next major manufacturing hub through the proposed Integrated Manufacturing Cluster at Palakkad.

The panel on 'Financing in the time of war', pointed to the difficulties faced by a large number of micro and small industries in accessing finance due to lack of awareness and bureaucratic hurdles.

In a discussion on clean mobility, the panelists said that clean mobility was more an opportunity than a threat. Since vehicle owning itself is yet to cover much of India's opportunity, there is a big market emerging for e-vehicles and therefore for MSMEs. The Associate Partners of the event were Bank of Baroda, Tally Solutions, SSVM Institutions, Indian Overseas Bank, Salzer Electronics Limited, South Indian Bank, Turbo Engineers, Zorian Systems, Suguna Pumps & Motors, Malles Construction, eRoyce Motors India, and Ruh Continuum School.

The Realty Partner is G Square and Lifestyle Partner is Lexus.

Amber Group eyes $2-bn revenue milestone in near term

Press Trust of India
JEWAR

Leading electronics and consumer durables contract manufacturer Amber Group expects to touch the $2 billion revenue mark in the near term, driven by strong growth across its consumer durables, electronics, and railway and defence businesses, its Executive Chairman and CEO Jasbir Singh said.

Amber Group, which reported consolidated revenue of ₹12,306.63 crore (around $1.3 billion) in FY26, held a groundbreaking ceremony on Saturday for manufacturing facilities at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), with a total proposed investment of about ₹6,785 crore.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister of Railways & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav were present at the event.

The projects include a high-density interconnect (HDI) printed circuit board (PCB) and semiconductor substrate manufacturing unit being set up through its joint venture Ascent-K Circuit, as well as an expanded air-conditioner and components manufacturing complex by Amber Enterprises.

According to Singh, Amber's electronics business is currently growing at 40-45% annually, while its railway and defence division has returned to a 30-35% growth trajectory.

However, the consumer durables business continues to grow in line with industry trends, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby Notified to general public that our Client, **Smt. N. BHARATHI,** W/o H.A. Pulakeshi, R/at: No. 31/12, Poornanjaneya Swamy layout, Behind Jain Heights Apartments, Hennur Cross, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru – 560 043, has intended to conclude Sale transaction with Sri. D. Vamsi Krishna Reddy over the Schedule property. Any person/s having any sort of right, claim or title over the Schedule property may notify with documentary proof, either to us or to our Client within Ten (10) DAYS from the date of this Notice, failing which our Client shall assume that there are no claims, whatsoever and there afterwards shall proceed to conclude sale transaction of the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Converted land bearing Sy.No. 90/8, (Old Sy.No. 90/3) measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas, 10890 Sq. ft, converted vide orders passed in No. 267580, dated 22.10.2021, BBMP e-PID No.9214129246, situate at Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, comes within the Jurisdiction of Ward No. 24, of BBMP, now under jurisdiction of GBA, Bengaluru North, bounded on: East by: Land belongs to Hunsmarada Appaiah in Sy. No. 92, West by: Remaining Land in Sy.No.90/3; North by: Land belongs to Hanumanthappa in Sy.No.90/2; South by: Land belongs Sri. Maruthi H.P., and G. Sundar Rami Reddy

M/s. Mathru Associates, Advocates No.3/13, 2nd Floor, DBS Gurusiddappa Building, 4th Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru 560009. Ph: 9900900166

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public notice is issued on behalf of our client **Sri. R Ashok Kumar** to inform the general public that the **Original Sale Deeds** standing in the name of **Y. Sulochana,** bearing document number 10691/1995-96 and **Y. Ramachandra Naidu,** bearing document number 10692/1995-96, both dated 01/02/1996, registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, pertaining to schedule property described below, has been lost/misplaced.

Any person who may have found or is in possession of the said documents is hereby called upon to return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07(Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no person has any claim over the said document.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES :

Property under Sale Deed No. 10691 / 1995-96:

All that piece and parcel of property bearing House List No.2, Assessment No. A/1, Khata No. 246/1 of Konappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 85 feet, North to South 59+66.6/2 feet, and bounded on the; East by: The property bearing No.2, West by: Sri. Y. Ramachandra Naidu's property, North by: Smt. Y. Sulochana's property, South by : 30 feet Road.

Property under Sale Deed No. 10692 / 1995-96:

All that piece and parcel of property bearing House List No.1, Assessment No. A/0, Khata No. 240/1 of Konappana Agrahara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 84 feet, North to South 52+59/2 feet, and bounded on the; East by : The property belonging to Smt. Y. Sulochana, West by : The property belonging to Smt. Y. Sulochana, North by : The property belonging to Smt. Y. Sulochana, South by : 30 feet Road.

Herald P. Veigas., Advocate
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This hardy coffee hybrid may be your morning cup of the future

Meena Menon

While the world's coffee drinkers favour Arabica or Robusta, a newly identified hybrid called Coffea x libex (the X denotes its hybrid status) – or just Libex – could be their brew of choice in future.

The world drinks roughly 17,000 tonnes of Arabica and 10,000 tonnes of Robusta beans (pre-roasting) every day. Together, they account for more than 99.99% of global coffee production. However, they are susceptible to rising temperatures and erratic rainfall. Libex on the other hand may be able to grow in warmer temperatures and under a wider range of rainfall patterns, according to research from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the U.K. It was recently published in *Scientific Reports*.

The researchers investigated coffee samples from Central America, Africa, and Asia to quantify hybridisation between Liberica and Excelsa and assess the hybrid's potential to be cultivated. While hybrids between these two species had long been inferred from their physical characteristics, their existence had not been confirmed using genomic evidence. The team analysed 113 individual plant samples to confirm that Excelsa and Liberica had indeed been hybridised in cultivation. The team also reported that improved genotypes of these hybrids can be brought to production using clonal propagation, micropropagation or by grafting to select rootstocks, such as those of Liberica or Excelsa. The Indian version of Libex is a "delicious coffee," Akshay Dashrath of the South India Coffee Company (SICC) and a study co-author, said. Material from the Malleshwara Estate near Ballupet in Hassan district, taken from trees planted between 1980 and 1982, was confirmed by Kew to be an Excelsa-Liberica hybrid.

On the SICC site, Mr. Dashrath wrote that according to a leading coffee roaster in the U.K. with whom he works, "Early tastings of Libex reveal a balanced and approachable cup, blending tropical fruit notes from Liberica with chocolate and dried fruit depth from Excelsa."

Traditionally, farmers grew Excelsa as a boundary marker in coffee estates. While Liberica is a low-yielding coffee, Mr. Dashrath said Libex has better yield and outturn (the conversion ratio of fresh fruit to coffee beans), which is good news for farmers. Libex also has thinner pulp and parchment, which can make post-harvest processing more efficient and improve quality relative to Liberica.

(Meena Menon is an independent journalist. She has a PhD from the University of Leeds. meenamenon@gmail.com)

Fake patents are poisoning India's race for academic excellence

Researchers have reported some firms selling U.K. design registrations to Indian academics to artificially boost institutional rankings; these registrations, often granted in 11 days without novelty checks, are misrepresented as international patents

T.V. Padma
NEW DELHI

A worrying new trend of 'fake patents', in which education companies sell thousands of patents registered in the U.K. to academics from India and elsewhere, has raised concerns among research integrity experts.

Authors, from the U.K. and the U.S., of a report published in the *International Journal of Educational Integrity* wrote "eight firms ... are likely involved in the sale of thousands of U.K. registered designs to Indian academics for the purpose of academic reputation manipulation."

Patent offices don't examine design applications for novelty, innovation or uniqueness, and they award them quickly. This is unlike the more stringent process for patents, which are typically used to commercialise a new discovery, Subhash Lakhotia, Distinguished Professor at the Cytogenetics Laboratory at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, said.

Not all filed patents are accepted either, and only a small fraction of the accepted ones end up being used by industry. "Thus, the real value of a patent is when it is used by industry for a process or product," Prof. Lakhotia, who is also on the advisory board of India Research Watch, a watchdog on Indian research, said.

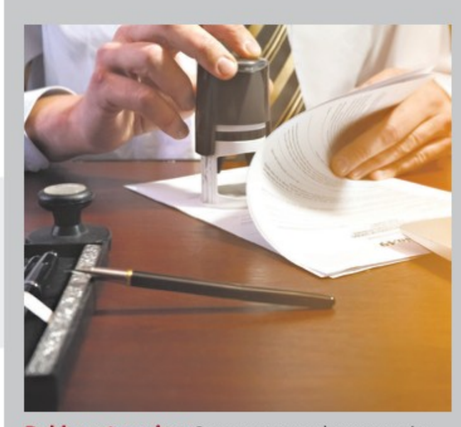
'Fake' patents, filed without any original research by the person (or persons) in whose name the patent is filed, "refer to a non-existing entity," he said. "This unhealthy and ... unethical act is promoted by shady companies acting as patent-filing or facilitating agencies – they sell the authorship of a patent for a non-existing entity to academics, who gain by earning academic points during assessment for academic excellence."

In the report, the authors spotlighted firms selling inventorship positions on design patents in the U.K., but 'sales' have also been recorded from India and Australia. However, these countries don't issue design patents; they issue design registrations, Reese Richardson, a postdoctoral fellow at the Center of Science and Innovation at Northwestern University, U.S. and one of the authors of the report, said. According to her, design patents issued in the U.S. have to pass a novelty review and have a good chance of being rejected. Design registrations, on the other hand, are usually granted with minimal review.

Red herrings

'Eight firms … are likely involved in the sale of thousands of U.K. registered designs to Indian academics'

- Academics are buying U.K. design registrations in a bid to manipulate their professional evaluations
- Design registrations are granted without rigorous novelty reviews, unlike actual patents that require innovation and uniqueness
- The misuse of these fake patents is driven by institutional rankings that prioritise quantitative data over quality
- Intense competition for jobs and rankings in India makes these unethical practices particularly attractive to many local academics
- These purchased roles are fraudulent because the designs cover only appearance and involve no actual scientific invention
- Experts have recommended removing quantitative IP metrics from rankings to discourage this unethical practice



Rubber-stamping: Some unscrupulous agencies exploit individuals' or institutions' desire to secure better ranks by selling fake patents or research papers. ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Look and function

In the U.K., the design registrations Dr. Richardson's team studied were usually granted in around 11 days. "What clients are actually buying are ownership positions on these design registrations", she said. "Moreover, because these registrations are for 'designs', they cover the way an object looks, not how it functions," she added. So when an academic buys an "inventorship" on a "U.K. design patent", "there are a number of lies taking place," she added. "The academic has not invented anything; the device does not exist (let alone work); what they have obtained is not a patent; and it does not cover the functionality of the product even if it did work."

Yet these academics can then tell their employers they have obtained an "international patent", helping them towards a promotion. "As far as I am aware, selling fake patents has only emerged on the academic black market in India," Dr. Richardson said.

Prof. Lakhotia identifies three factors that contribute to this distinction: the large population seeking education and jobs, the use of quantitative metrics without any serious assessment of quality, and the reliance of nearly all international and national academic ranking agencies on quantitative parameters.

"Other related problems have emerged because of the insistence of Indian rankings on patents," Dr. Richardson added. "For instance, many private Indian universities have been filing thousands of utility patents in India in the hopes of pumping up their numbers, often more than the IITs, combined. However, ... less than 2% of these patents actually wind up being granted."

According to Prof. Lakhotia, an urgent step to curb the growing global menace of fake patents and papers is to stop all institutional rankings based on quantitative data. In the absence of independent verification, institutions unethically inflate these data, he said.

"The mere filing of a patent ... must not be used for assessment," he explained, and that only patents used by industry should be included. And "the agencies that brazenly broker such fake patents and research publications must be taken to task severely." "We need to have stronger mechanisms to identify, catalogue, and respond to scientific misconduct," Anant Bhan, adjunct professor at Yenepoya (deemed) University, Mangaluru, and an expert on bioethics, said.

Some research funders in India, like Anusandhan National Research Foundation, and some regulators have been looking into using retractions as indicators. "We do need to ramp up efforts" and have a nimble regulatory oversight and governance system, Dr. Bhan added.

(T.V. Padma is a science journalist based in New Delhi. tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in)

Capturing sunlight in a bottle and using it when needed

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Thanks to the initiatives of UNESCO and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), most countries across the world have adopted 'green' solutions that reduce environmental carbon dioxide. The use of solar panels to capture sunlight and turn it into electricity has been a particularly successful strategy. Many countries across the world have seen a large-scale expansion in the installation of solar panels.

In India, a typical home solar panel installation connected to the grid today costs about ₹30,000 per kW after subsidies under the 'Surya Ghar Mufti Bijili Yojana'. A 2-kW system can cover the basic electricity needs of a typical household. And there are crores of such panels across the country. India's rooftop solar capacity is now 23 gigawatt (GW).

In all, India's land-based solar panels generate about 150 GW of power. Ingenious solar panel installations, such as those over irrigation canals, and floating solar panels in lakes and dam-based water reservoirs are expected to produce an additional 102 GW in the near future. Recently, India has also become 'greener' by installing wind turbines and introducing electric trains, trucks, buses, and cars.

Solar panels convert energy from the sun into electricity when photons excite electrons in silicon crystals, causing them to be freed and to flow from a positively charged layer in the solar cell towards a negatively charged layer, creating an electric current. Inverters are used to convert this flow of electrons into a usable alternating current.

In India, a typical home solar panel installation connected to the grid today costs about ₹30,000 per kW after subsidies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

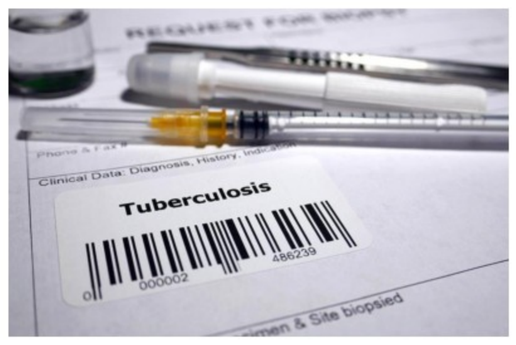
But solar panels work during the daytime when the sun is shining. Home systems that have batteries to store power cost 1.5-times more. If there is a way by which we can more efficiently store captured energy, it would be ideal. This is what a group of researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara, led by Prof. Grace Han, have done by designing what are referred to as molecular photo-switches (DOI: 10.1126/science.aec6413). These involve molecules that, upon absorbing solar light, convert themselves into a different shape (called isomerisation) and store the energy. This is referred to as photo-switching. Here, the molecule stores solar thermal energy in a molecular form, also known as molecular solar thermal (or MOST). The molecule the researchers have chosen, after consultation with a group at University of California at Los Angeles, is an alkaloid called 2-pyrimidone. It switches itself upon receiving photons into an isomer called Dewar pyrimidone. The latter isomeric molecule is highly strained and releases heat as much as 1.65 million joules per kg of MOST molecules. This heat allows this technology to be a practical tool to store heat and deliver it when needed for water heating, cooking, and other needs.

As a member of the research team mentioned, thermal energy from the sun can now be bottled for later use. Silicon-based panels use red and near-infrared regions of the light spectrum (400-1,100 nm). Solar thermal molecules use wavelengths below 500 nm, in the ultraviolet region.

Apart from the pyrimidones, there must be other compounds that too can act as photo-switches and heat storage units. As the solar panels across India capture sunlight during the day, scientists should be able to synthesise more MOST molecules and distribute them to the people who put up solar panels on their roofs. That would make India greener.

dbala@lvpei.org

SNAPSHOTS



New technique tests TB drugs' effectiveness in just 50 hours

Scientists have developed a faster way to test for drug resistance in the bacteria that cause tuberculosis. Traditional phenotypic tests have to wait for the bacteria to multiply over four to eight weeks. The new way, called Raman-DIP, uses single-cell imaging to track how cells process heavy water, thus revealing if an antibiotic is inhibiting the bacteria in just 50 hours. The team reported this method was 100% accurate vis-à-vis four major drugs against various strains.

Hominin body sizes did not steadily increase over time

Upon analysing nearly 400 fossils across 21 species, researchers have found moderate evidence of a slow, general increase in body size across hominins over time. However, the evidence was much stronger for a sudden, significant jump in size among later members of the genus Homo (excluding *Homo habilis*), likely when species like *H. erectus* appeared. Overall, the research suggested the human body size did not steadily increase over time but transitioned distinctly among our more recent ancestors.

Turtles use internal compass, and some fixes, on journeys

Using satellite tags to track compass headings, researchers found that green sea turtles do not constantly adjust their course but instead swim in one direction for long periods, even if they drift off-track. Then, the study found, they make occasional mid-ocean changes over several hours to fix their bearings. Since the turtles had the same heading day and night, the researchers figured they likely use the earth's magnetic field to navigate and do not sleep when they migrate.

Question Corner

Watered-down bonds

Why does wet paper tear so easily?

As the southwest monsoon sweeps over India, people brace for storms, floods, and the occasional sight of a damaged bookstore or library. What makes the last a particularly sad sight is that paper tears easily when it's wet.

Paper is made primarily from wood pulp, which contains a dense network of cellulose fibers.

Cellulose consists of the compound $C_6H_{10}O_5$ attached to each other in long chains. Many of these chains clump together to form fibres, and the fibres are attached to each other using hydrogen bonds, i.e. a bond involving a hydrogen atom on one end. While hydrogen bonds are weaker than covalent, ionic or metallic bonds, millions of them act to keep paper together, along with the fibres also being entangled.

When paper is wet, water molecules penetrate between the cellulose fibres. Because water can also form hydrogen bonds, it competes with and disrupts some of the hydrogen bonds that normally hold neighbouring fibres together.

Water also causes the cellulose fibres to absorb moisture and swell, loosening the network and reducing friction. As a result, the fibres can slide past one another more easily, so less force is needed to tear wet paper.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

Why is Delhi's EV policy 2.0 facing opposition?

Who is concerned and on what grounds? What do proponents say? Is the power grid ready for the impact?

Kunal Shankar

The story so far:

Building on the momentum gained from its 2020 Electric Vehicles (EV) policy, which led to Delhi achieving almost 14% EV penetration by 2025, compared to the national average of 8%, the Delhi government issued the revised draft EV Policy in early April. Currently under stakeholder consultation, the policy envisages a complete ban on the registration of new internal combustion engine (ICE) three-wheelers from January 1, 2027. It also proposes a ban on new ICE two-wheeler registrations from April 1, 2028. The rationale behind the latter is straightforward: 67% of Delhi's registered vehicle stock comprises two-wheelers, and if the national capital is to achieve cleaner air in the foreseeable future, this segment requires targeted attention to enable the transition. The revised draft policy also proposes electrification mandates for school buses – with a target of 30% electrification by 2030 – fleet aggregators such as cab-hailing platforms and delivery services, as well as government transport fleets. While the number of vehicles in these segments is considerably lower than private two-wheelers, their pollution burden is disproportionately higher because of their daily utilisation.

Who is objecting to the policy and why?

Industry executives and people familiar with the stakeholder consultations say manufacturers represented by bodies such as the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers have expressed reservations about their ability to scale up production of electric variants within the proposed timelines. They worry about the possibility of losing market share and argue that the market is not yet ready to pivot to an all-electric paradigm, as economies of scale have not yet reduced EV prices sufficiently to compete with comparable ICE two-wheelers.

Industry bodies argue that the market is not yet ready to pivot to an all-electric paradigm, as economies of scale have not yet reduced EV prices sufficiently

They also point to gaps in both public and private charging infrastructure. While there has been considerable progress in the former through charger deployment mandates, service delivery and reliability remain a concern, with breakdowns, theft of charging equipment, and power outages reported at several locations. As for private charging, there has been persistent hesitation among Resident Welfare Associations and apartment complexes in permitting community charging stations.

Stakeholders also point to the lack of competitive financing, particularly for electric light commercial vehicles, quality after-sales service, and the decline in resale values of used EVs. Battery replacement costs and India's continued dependence on imported battery technologies are also being flagged, particularly as much of the global EV battery supply chain remains concentrated in China.

Automobile manufacturers have therefore argued for a more market-led transition, driven primarily by demand-side incentives.

What are supporters of the revised EV policy saying?

Proponents argue that regulation – much like the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency norms that pushed manufacturers to improve fuel efficiency in conventional vehicles – must sometimes push the envelope in pursuit of a larger public good. In this case, they argue, the public good is Delhi's clean air. Indeed, the aim of both the 2020 policy and the revised draft policy is to address the contribution of road transport to Delhi's winter air pollution.

Think tanks and critics have also applied a social justice and labour lens, arguing that the policy must address the underbelly of the sector – the vast network of after-sales service providers built around ICE vehicles which will now have to pivot to a new technology. Many of these small businesses may be ill-equipped to make that transition within two years unless the State government also mandates large-scale reskilling programmes, ensures easier financing for small workshops, and provides incentives to upgrade their equipment as part of the broader EV transition.

Is India's power grid ready for the impact?

Another urgent issue must be addressed if such a rapid scale-up is to succeed – the ability of Delhi's electricity grid to handle peak-time charging loads and the substantial increase in power demand that widespread transport electrification will bring. Here, however, there is some reassurance. Studies by WRI India, CSTEP, and other energy think tanks suggest that if charging is managed through smart charging, time-of-day tariffs, and staggered charging patterns, the additional electricity demand from EVs is unlikely to overwhelm Delhi's grid in the near term. They argue that the larger challenge lies in strengthening local distribution infrastructure, particularly transformers and distribution feeders, rather than overall generation capacity.

Which document proves Indian citizenship?

Why is the Indian passport not considered a conclusive proof of Indian citizenship? What purpose does Aadhaar serve? Does presence on the electoral rolls or possession of an Electoral Photo Identity Card determine citizenship? What happens in case of a dispute?

Rizmi Lia M.
Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

The Indian passport is not a "document of citizenship," a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in response to a query from *The Hindu* this week. So, if a passport is not proof of citizenship, what is?

Is it a new development that a passport cannot be used as a document to prove Indian citizenship?

A passport by itself is not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship, and this is not a new development or announcement. Last week, the senior MEA official was responding to a question from *The Hindu* on whether the Indian passport can be used to challenge exclusion from the voters' list through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that is currently underway in 16 States. The official said: "The passport is a travel document, not a document of citizenship, and theoretically speaking, that distinguishes the passport from other documents. Even though while travelling abroad, the passport attests to your nationality, it is not a document of citizenship."

This stance is based on existing law. The government's Passport Manual says that "a passport provides evidence of the holder's nationality, but this is placed in the same category as any other evidence of the citizenship status of an individual". In other words, a passport is strong evidence that its holder is an Indian citizen. However, in law, it is not treated as conclusive proof of citizenship. If a person's citizenship is disputed, courts may examine it alongside other relevant evidence.

According to *Maneka Gandhi v Union Of India* (1978), issuance of passport is based on conclusive proof that the holder is an Indian national, and is "entitled by virtue of their Indian nationality and passports to the protection of the Indian Republic and assistance of its Diplomatic Missions abroad."

India does not prescribe one universal citizenship document. An effort to create such a document through the National Register of Citizens became politically contentious

Under Section 6(2)(a) of the Passports Act, 1967, the authorities can refuse a passport if the applicant is not a citizen of India. But under Section 20 of the Act, the Union government may issue a passport or travel document to a person who is not a citizen of India if it thinks that it is necessary to do so in public interest.

The MEA's response distinguishes between evidence of citizenship and conclusive proof of citizenship. While citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, and passports are issued under the Passports Act, 1967, the existence of a passport cannot by itself be called a conclusive or definitive proof of citizenship in a dispute.

An Indian passport. GETTY IMAGES

Can the Aadhaar card be used to prove Indian citizenship?

When the Aadhaar was introduced one and a half decades ago, it was promoted as a one-stop digital identification document which could replace the many documents that Indians had to furnish to avail themselves of benefits from multiple government schemes. However, from the beginning, the Unique Identification Authority of India has emphasised that Aadhaar can only be treated as proof of identity and address, not of citizenship. In fact, non-Indian citizens who are legally resident in India are eligible to get an Aadhaar, and often require the identity card to avail themselves of many basic services, from banking to cooking gas.

In its judgment of May 27 this year, when the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the SIR, it held that an Aadhaar card does not constitute proof of citizenship and, therefore, cannot be relied upon for that purpose. However, it is among the documents which may be produced for the limited purpose of establishing the identity of a person, it said.

Does a voter ID prove Indian citizenship?

Only Indian citizens are eligible to vote in Indian elections, but one's presence on the electoral rolls or possession of an Electoral Photo Identity Card does not determine citizenship or conclusively prove it.

In the case of *Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer* (1995), the Supreme Court unequivocally held that electors whose names appear on electoral roll are entitled to a presumption of citizenship, and that this presumption cannot be displaced except by following the procedure prescribed by law.

However, in this year's SIR judgment, the Court emphasised that the Election Commission's role is confined to determining eligibility for electoral rolls. It cannot adjudicate citizenship, and the citizenship of an individual under the Citizenship Act will not cease on account of their ineligibility to register in the electoral rolls, pursuant to the SIR.

In fact, the passport was one of the 11 'indicative' documents listed by the Election Commission as proof of citizenship. Some voters purged from the draft SIR in Uttar Pradesh, for instance, used their passports to prove that they are citizens of India and should be included in the final electoral roll. However, there have been reported cases of people in West Bengal who hold Indian passports, but who were still deleted from the draft electoral lists during the SIR.

So what document proves citizenship?

While responding to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 12, 2025, the Home Ministry did not specify the "categories of valid documents" required for people to prove citizenship in India. "The citizenship of India is governed under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, and rules made thereunder," the Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, said in a written reply.

Under the Citizenship Act, citizenship can be acquired by birth, by descent, by registration, by naturalisation and by incorporation of territory.

Citizenship certificates are generally issued to people who acquired citizenship by registration or naturalisation, and can act as a conclusive proof document. The majority of Indians, however, are citizens by birth or descent, and do not have a citizenship certificate. Instead, they rely on different evidence that prove their date of birth, place of birth, or their parentage, depending on the context of the dispute.

Anyone born in India between January 26, 1950 and July 1, 1987 is a citizen by birth, irrespective of their parents' nationality. Such people would have to produce documents proving their place and date of birth to establish their citizenship. Given that mandatory birth certificates were not issued in this period, many people use a combination of other documents, including educational certificates and Aadhaar.

For those born between July 1, 1987 and December 3, 2004, proof of their own place and date of birth is insufficient as they must also prove that at least one parent was an Indian citizen. For those born on or after December 3, 2004, one parent must be an Indian citizen while the other should not be an illegal migrant, complicating the documentary proof required.

India does not prescribe one universal citizenship document. An effort to create such a document through the National Register of Citizens became politically contentious amid fears of a nationwide verification exercise that could exclude many due to incomplete documents. As former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said in a post last week, the lesson is that "India needs stronger and more comprehensive civil registration, universal birth registration and reliable archival records so that citizenship can never become hostage to missing or inconsistent paperwork."

What do the amended FCRA Rules say?

How does the Ministry of Home Affairs regulate foreign donations? What are the key changes in the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026? How do the new Rules affect the purposes for which NGOs can receive foreign funds? What penalties apply for violations?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

On June 22, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011.This is the tenth amendment to the Rules under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA).

How does the MHA regulate foreign donations?

The MHA regulates foreign donations in India through the FCRA to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect the country's internal security. The legislation was first enacted in 1976. In 2010, it was repealed and replaced with a new legislation. The 2010 Act came into force on May 1, 2011 and has been amended in 2016, 2018, and 2020. The FCRA registration is valid for five years, after which the NGO has to apply for a renewal. Since 2015, the FCRA registrations of more than 18,000 NGOs have been cancelled. As on June 22, there are 14,456 FCRA-registered NGOs active in the country.

What are the broad amendments proposed to the FCRA Rules?

All NGOs and associations registered under the FCRA, 2010, are required to disclose their specific activities and the geographical scope of their programmes. The Rules no longer allow general permission under the FCRA and indicate tighter scrutiny on how NGOs utilise foreign funds.

The Rules impose a fee for registration for each specified purpose and for each State or U.T. in which an NGO operates

Any new registration will have to follow the said norms. The Rules further broaden the definition of 'key functionary' of an NGO beyond office bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the Karta of a Hindu undivided family, governing body members, or anyone controlling or managing the organisation.

They also require NGOs to mandatorily disclose social media accounts, websites, and declare whether the association or its key functionaries has brought out any publication during the year, which includes books, magazines or newspaper articles.

The Rules also impose a fee for registration for each specified purpose and for each State or Union Territory (U.T.) in which an NGO operates. So, NGOs operating across multiple sectors or regions now face higher registration costs.

File photo of Opposition MPs demanding the withdrawal of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. ANI

What amendments apply to the programmes or purposes for which an NGO intends to receive foreign donations?

NGOs can receive foreign contributions for social, educational, religious, economic, and cultural programmes. The amended Rules state that the certificate of registration or the application form for new registrations shall specify the purpose or purposes for which registration is granted, chosen only from the list of purposes as specified in the Schedule appended to the rules; and the States or U.T.s in which the NGO proposes to undertake activities.

Those with existing FCRA registrations are expected to update the purpose and intimate the Central government within a year. Some categories specifically exclude political activities.

The educational purpose lists 22 activities, but adds the qualifier "strictly non-political in nature" to the category covering awareness programmes on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities.

Under cultural purpose, there are 18 categories, including "promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions." The Rules specify that these must exclude political or ideological content.

As many as 16 categories of religious activities have been permitted which includes "conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)" and "burial/ cremation ground development and maintenance."

There are 19 categories under the economic purpose and 30 items under the social category.

What are the penalties for violations?

The MHA has also notified an order specifying penalties for FCRA violations, including excess administrative spending, speculative investments, misuse of funds, unauthorised receipt or utilisation of foreign contributions, and the use of funds for unapproved purposes or in States/U.T.s not covered by an NGO's registration or prior permission.

Any utilisation of funds for purposes other than those for which they were received can attract a penalty of up to 30% of the amount misused or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. Likewise, using foreign contributions for purposes or in areas not covered by an NGO's registration or prior permission invites a penalty of 30% of the amount involved or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher.

In addition, spending beyond the permitted administrative expense limit or engaging in speculative use of funds will be penalised with fines calculated as a percentage of the amount involved, subject to a minimum of ₹1 lakh.

What is the Opposition saying?

Opposition members have said that the new Rules will adversely affect the functioning of civil society organisations. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal said that forcing NGOs to choose from a "rigid, government-mandated list" of activities and restricting their operational geography would undermine their ability to respond to emergencies. John Brittas, Communist Party of India (Marxist) Rajya Sabha member, wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah raising constitutional concerns. "Collectively, these changes signify a decisive shift from regulating foreign contribution to regulating voluntary organisations themselves," he wrote.

The story of a shipwrecked hegemon

War on Iran

The war the U.S. and Israel launched has come to a fragile pause with a preliminary agreement between Washington and Tehran, but it has already diminished America's presence in the region, prompting Gulf countries to seek a new *modus vivendi* with Tehran, while Israel, isolated and angry, is clinging on to its Lebanon card

Stanly Johny

"When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations," President Donald Trump told Iranians on February 28, after the U.S. and Israel launched an all-out war on their country. He asked the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), armed forces and police to "lay down" weapons. "You will be treated fairly with total immunity, or you will face certain death," warned Mr. Trump.

The initial blow was devastating for Iran. More than 40 senior officials were killed, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, IRGC commander Mohammad Pakpour and Defence Council chief Ali Shamkhani. Senior Israeli officials had likened the June 12, 2025 strike on Iran, which killed a host of military officers, to the 'Red Wedding', the infamous massacre of House Stark members in *Game of Thrones*. But that attack paled in comparison with the February 28 strikes. This was Iran's true 'Red Wedding' moment.

The U.S. and Israel expected the decapitation strike to trigger the collapse of the Iranian state or plunge the country, already rocked by January's violent protests, into chaos, paving the way for a more amenable leadership to emerge. Mr. Trump wanted a quick, Venezuela-like solution. This confidence was reflected in his conversation with allies during the early hours of the war. According to Israel's *Ynet News*, Mr. Trump told British Prime Minister Keir Starmer that the war would be over "in three days". When he urged Mr. Starmer to deploy aircraft carriers to West Asia, the British PM said he would first consult his team the following week. "But the war has already started. Next week, the war is going to be over... in three days," said Mr. Trump.

But he was wrong.

Iran's response rested on three pillars. One, preserving the state and preventing regime collapse; two, retaliating by regionalising the war; three, enhancing the global economic cost by wielding its most potent strategic lever – the Strait of Hormuz. The state recovered quickly from the initial shock. Ali Larijani, secretary of the National Security Council, was already in charge of critical decision-making. President Masoud Pezeshkian focused on managing the war-time economy and civil administration. Within days of the U.S. attack, Ahmad Vahidi, the 'ghost general' of the IRGC, took command of the war effort. (Larijani was later killed in an Israeli strike and was swiftly replaced by Mohammed Bagher Zolqadr, another IRGC commander).

Iran also started striking U.S. bases in Persian Gulf countries and Jordan, besides directly attacking Israel. Among the six Gulf kingdoms, all but Oman have permanent U.S. military bases. Bases, missile defence batteries and sites of American economic presence were all targeted. Russia reportedly shared intelligence with Iran. On March 1, the second day of the war, the IRGC Navy announced that the Strait of Hormuz, through which one fifth of the world's seaborne oil passed before the war, was closed to all traffic. Shipping companies halted transits, commercial traffic collapsed, insurance costs rocketed and the price of crude oil soared, pushing the global economy to a cliff.

Mr. Trump, having failed to meet his objectives quickly, doubled down on his rhetoric. On March 6, he demanded Iran's "unconditional surrender" and ruled out any deal with Tehran. Two days later, Iran's Assembly of Experts chose Mojtaba Khamenei, son of the former leader Ali Khamenei, as the new 'Leader of the Revolution'. In his first message as the leader, Mojtaba termed the war an "existential struggle", and said the fighting would continue and that the Strait of Hormuz would remain shut. He delivered a clear message: Iran, despite the punishing American, Israeli attacks, preferred war over surrender.

"Iran was trying to avoid this war from the very beginning. A political solution was available [before the war started]. But Trump and [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu were not interested in an agreement. They wanted to change Iran's government and take over Iran's oil, creating Israel's hegemony in this part of the world," Foad Izadi, professor of world studies at the University of Tehran, told *The Hindu*. "Of course, they have inflicted huge damage on Iran's infrastructure and killed a lot of people. But they have failed [to meet their objectives]. And when they realised that they have failed, they entered negotiations," he added.

Troubled waters: Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, on June 16. REUTERS

Stubborn realities

In Mr. Trump's view, the U.S. secured a decisive victory over Iran. He said Iran's navy, air force, air defences and much of its attack capability had been destroyed, and that Tehran was begging for a deal. Yet, he faced a series of stubborn realities. The swift victory he had anticipated remained elusive; Iran's state survived the bombing; there was no viable military option to reopen the Strait of Hormuz; and Iran's nuclear programme remained unaddressed and unresolved. "The war has deeply scarred the entire region. Iran suffered heavy blows. Its Supreme Leader was killed, key military and nuclear sites were destroyed, yet it survived and proved it could strike back asymmetrically," Mohammed Soliman, author of *West Asia: A New American Grand Strategy in the Middle East*, and a senior fellow at The Middle East Institute, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Trump had two options: press ahead with the air campaign, further depleting America's offensive and defensive stockpiles; or engage Iran diplomatically. If continuing the strikes did not produce a desirable outcome, prolonging the campaign would become futile. He chose the diplomatic alternative. It was at this point Pakistan, a nuclear power with good ties to both Washington and Tehran, stepped in to offer mediation. On April 8, just hours after threatening to erase Iran's civilisation, Mr. Trump announced a "double-sided ceasefire".

But the ceasefire did not mean an end to the conflict. Mr. Trump declared that the Strait of Hormuz would be open. Both Iran and Pakistan said the ceasefire covered Lebanon as well. Israel had seized parts of southern Lebanon after the war broke out. Israel continued its strikes, which strained the U.S.-Iran ceasefire. Tehran did not reopen the strait. After direct talks between the U.S. and Iran in Islamabad on April 11-12 failed to make any breakthrough, Mr. Trump announced a blockade of Iranian ports aimed at choking the country's already broken economy further. He did not want to return to active war, but he wanted to make Iran concede on his critical demands. Iran's closure of the strait and the American blockade led to repeated skirmishes between the two sides. But despite the tensions, they stayed engaged in talks, exchanging drafts through Pakistan. Iran took a phased approach towards the conflict. It wanted to negotiate a preliminary deal first to bring the war to an end and remove the bottlenecks for shipping in and out of the Persian Gulf, and then, in phase two, hold discussions on the nuclear question. The Trump administration, despite its public protests, accepted this line.

On June 15, U.S. and Iran announced the memorandum of understanding, extending the ceasefire by 60 more days and paving the way for more substantive talks on critical issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and western sanctions. The memorandum also said the ceasefire should come into force on all fronts, including Lebanon; the U.S. blockade would be lifted; Tehran would get access to its frozen funds and the U.S. would help create a development plan for Iran, involving $300 billion. On the other side, Iran promised never to make a nuclear bomb (Iran's official position has always been that it is not seeking to build a bomb, a position which it put on record in the 2015 deal signed with the Obama administration). Iran also promised to ensure safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz without any charge for 60 days.

Mr. Trump's claims of victory do not align with the text of the MoU. The U.S., which started the war seeking regime change, ultimately offered substantial concessions to the same government, in exchange for commitments not to pursue a nuclear bomb, and to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which had been open before the war. "It is both a strategic and a military defeat. No strategic or military goals were attained. The region will now have to recalibrate its relation to the U.S. and abandon unrealistic expectations about American power," Bruno Macaes, a Portuguese political scientist and author, told *The Hindu*.

A new security order

Before the war began, West Asia looked like a different region. Israel, after regionalising its post-October 7 wars, looked confident of meeting its final objective – bring down the Islamic Republic and build a unipolar West Asia where it would act as the principal security player. The Abraham Accords, which saw the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco sign normalisation agreements with Israel, built the foundation for this 'new Middle East'. Gulf countries were worried about Iran but felt protected by American military presence. America's promise for security had been the bedrock of the U.S.-Gulf partnership for decades. As Jimmy Carter said in January 1980, "Let our position be absolutely clear: An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States..." Iran upended not just the Carter doctrine but also the Trumpian effort to reshape West Asia around Israel as its core and Arab states as its pillars.

The U.S. could do little as Iran unleashed its drones and missiles at American bases across the region. Rather than providing security, the bases became magnets for Iranian projectiles. "The idea before the war was that the U.S. would provide security to the Gulf countries. But what happened was that the Gulf countries were burning through their defensive weapons to protect U.S. bases on their soil," said an Emirati official, requesting anonymity.

At least 13 American bases in the Gulf, including the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, the U.S. Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain and the Al Sader and Al Ruwais facilities in the UAE, were damaged. According to a *Wall Street Journal* visual investigation based on satellite imagery, Iranian attacks devastated the U.S. Navy's base in Bahrain. The U.S. could do little when Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City, the world's largest LNG export complex, was hit on March 18. Gulf countries watched with pain and shock as Iran drilled holes into the U.S.-led security architecture.

"Stability will have to come from within since the U.S. proved incapable of providing it. As for U.S. policy, it will become almost entirely mercantile: focus on deals in energy, AI and, of course, weapons," said Mr. Macaes. Mr. Soliman of the Middle East Institute agreed: "Gulf Arab states will now accelerate their security self-reliance, diversify their defence relationships in addition to the U.S., and seek more pragmatic ways to manage relations with Tehran."

Gulf states have already begun moving in this direction. They seem to have recognised that the Islamic Republic is not going anywhere, and for their own security and for the safe passage of shipping through Hormuz, they will need to work with Tehran on the basis of peaceful co-existence. What they require is regional stability, and for that stability, as Mr. Macaes put it, they would have to bring "Iran back from the cold".

"Part of what we are doing now, as regional countries, is to create this regional security framework between us and Iran," Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani said recently in an interview. "That will hopefully have economic cooperation in the future between all of us," he added. Saudi Arabia reportedly reached out to Iran to reach an understanding so that the kingdom would be spared if war resumed. U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance recently said the UAE, which has very close ties with Israel, "is having conversations with Iran that have never happened before, including with the IRGC, about economic incentives." Oman has always kept the diplomatic channels open with Tehran despite the war.

The pre-October 7 push by the U.S. to bring Gulf monarchies and Israel, the two pillars of America's West Asia policy, closer to build a joint front against Iran appears to have been shattered by this war. "The Abraham Accords and the effort to create a Sunni-Zionist alliance against Iran are dead," Trita Parsi, executive vice president of Quincy Institute, told *The Hindu*. "The war proved that the containment of Iran only leads to war, instability, and the defeat of such an alliance. The Arab side sees Israel as a greater threat than needs to be contained, and Iran as a state that they – from a security standpoint – need to integrate with economically, because containment and war failed."

Israel, left alone

One country that had long sought this war, and was among the most affected by it, was Israel. It was the principal architect of the campaign. Yet, as the conflict went against the initial expectations, Mr. Trump sidelined Israel and chose talks with Iran, ultimately reaching the MoU. With Iran now rewriting the regional security order and engaging in direct talks with the U.S., Mr. Netanyahu's big push to remap West Asia appears to have backfired. "The end result (of the war) may be the decontainment of Iran and the recontainment of Israel – perhaps going back to the pre-1991 era in which Israel was the regional and international outcast," said Mr. Parsi.

Israel stands increasingly isolated on the world stage. Without the U.S., its ability to shape security and geopolitical outcomes is limited. Many in Israel see the U.S.-Iran deal as a major strategic setback. "Israel is going to regret this war because nothing was achieved and Israel lost Trump," Gideon Levy, Israeli journalist and author, told *The Hindu*. "Israel should learn now that not everything can be achieved by force, but unfortunately Israel will not draw this lesson."

At this point, Mr. Netanyahu's focus is on the trump card he possesses – Lebanon. On June 26, Israel and Lebanon, under U.S. mediation, agreed to a deal under which Israeli troops would stay in southern Lebanon. Iran and Hezbollah have demanded a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The first article of the MoU calls for respecting Lebanon's "territorial integrity and sovereignty" – an indirect call for Israeli troop withdrawal. If Israel doesn't withdraw, clashes with Hezbollah will persist, meaning a ceasefire in Lebanon would remain out of reach. Tensions have already spilled over into the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran insists that ships should follow its designated route. It attacked a vessel transiting an "unauthorised" route last week, and the U.S. struck Iran on Saturday and Tehran retaliated by attacking U.S. bases in the region. But the U.S. strikes are unlikely to force Iran to give up its newly asserted control over the strait.

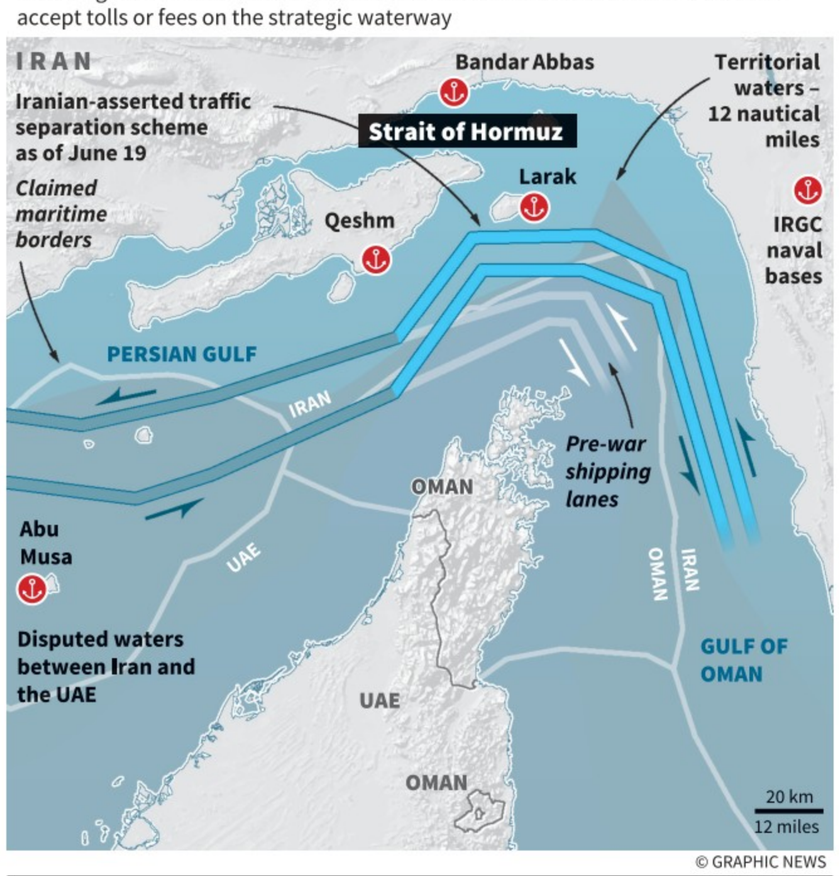
"We have to wait and see whether the U.S. and Israel are done with the war or this is just a pause," said Mr. Izadi, the Iranian professor. "Iran wants these attacks to stop; to get its money back; sanctions to be lifted and its authority over Hormuz recognised. The strait is in Iran's territory, in its contiguous waters. These are our red lines," he said. "The U.S. can accept these reasonable demands or they can start the war again. It's a decision they have to make."

THE GIST

- The U.S.-Iran MoU says the ceasefire should come into force on all fronts, including Lebanon, and that Lebanon's sovereignty should be respected
- Tehran would get access to its frozen funds and the U.S. would help create a development plan for Iran, involving $300 billion
- Iran has promised never to make a nuclear bomb and to ensure safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz without any charge for 60 days

Iran reasserts control over Hormuz

Iran and Oman are to discuss a future joint administration for the Strait of Hormuz, including maritime services and associated costs. The U.S. has said it would not accept tolls or fees on the strategic waterway



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WASHINGTON

Trump unveils rendering of new passport with picture of himself

TRUTH SOCIAL/@REALDONALDTRUMP

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday unveiled a rendering of a new limited-edition U.S. passport to mark the country's 250th anniversary of independence — featuring his stern-faced likeness. "The U.S.A.'s New Passport, which says, 'Welcome, but be good!'" Mr. Trump posted on Truth Social with the passport mock-up. AFP

NAIROBI

Six Kenyan protesters found dumped, tortured after arrest

AFP

Six Kenyan protesters arrested during the second anniversary of the landmark "Gen Z" uprising were found "dumped and tortured" on Saturday, rights group said. Families of those killed by security forces in June 2024 held a memorial march through Nairobi on Thursday to protest police killings. AFP

SURABAYA

Indonesian police arrest dozens following anti-government protest

AFP

Indonesian police have arrested dozens of protesters following a rally against President Prabowo Subianto's policies in the country's second-largest city, a rights group said on Saturday. While around 100 people gathered to protest, 24 were arrested, a coordinator at rights group KontraS Surabaya said. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. authorises limited access to Anthropic's Mythos AI model

AFP

Anthropic announced on Friday that it had received authorisation from the U.S. government to allow a small group of U.S. cybersecurity firms to access its powerful AI model Mythos 5. Access to Mythos 5 had been blocked by U.S. authorities due to concerns about national security. AFP

Hezbollah calls U.S.-Israel-Lebanon deal 'grave blunder', deems it void

Naim Qassem condemns the trilateral framework agreement as 'humiliating' and a 'surrender of sovereignty'; the deal includes a pilot plan where Lebanese soldiers take control of two Israel-occupied areas, and a process to disarm Hezbollah

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Hezbollah supporters block the old airport road during a protest against the trilateral agreement, in Beirut on Saturday. AFP

Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem condemned the U.S.-Israel-Lebanon framework agreement on Saturday, saying it is a major mistake by the government and that his group deems it null and void.

The agreement – which includes a pilot effort in which Lebanese soldiers take control of two areas currently occupied by Israel, as well as a process aimed at disarming Hezbollah – was signed in Washington on Friday after five rounds of talks.

"The framework agreement in Washington is humiliating, shameful, and a surrender of sovereignty. This agreement is null and void, and the provisions of the Iranian-American memorandum of understanding must be implemented," Mr. Qassem said in a statement, referring to the deal to end the broader West Asia war, which includes a ceasefire in Lebanon.

Mr. Qassem called on the government to withdraw from "its sins that are ruining Lebanon".

He accused Lebanese authorities of committing a "grave blunder" and "legitimising the continuation of the [Israeli] occupation for many years," which "may even lead to the annexation of these lands".

Hezbollah strongly rejects direct negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, which have been ongoing since April.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah supporters took to the streets of Beirut late Friday to protest the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, as a lawmaker from the Iran-backed group warned enforcing the deal risked sparking civil war.

The state-run *National News Agency* reported that "Hezbollah supporters rode motorbikes through the streets of Beirut" including central areas and along a road leading to the airport "in protest at the framework agreement announced between Lebanon and Israel".

Lebanese "authorities will be unable to impose the implementation of the agreement signed in Washington unless they go, with American support, to civil war," Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah said.

Later, the Lebanese military vowed to maintain public order, urging citizens "to act responsibly".

Explosion, gunfire rock Karachi; 3 soldiers killed

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

Pakistan paramilitary soldiers arrive near the site of an explosion in Karachi, Pakistan, on Saturday night. AP

At least three paramilitary soldiers were killed on Saturday night after militants rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the provincial headquarters of the paramilitary Pakistan Rangers in Karachi's heavily populated Gulistan-e-Jauhar area, triggering an intense exchange of gunfire with security forces, police said.

A little-known militant group, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, claimed responsibility.

Initial investigations suggest the militants entered the compound by ramming the main gate, said Sindh Inspector General of Police Javed Alam Odho, adding that more information is being collected. Rangers personnel responded rapidly but three of them were killed in the attack, he said. Local media reported that at least three militants were also killed. Mr. Odho said an explosion was heard when the attack began; however, its cause has not been determined yet.

"What is confirmed is that as soon as the attack took place, the Rangers personnel immediately engaged these attackers in a gun battle," he added.

The area was cordoned off and surrounding roads were closed.

Sindh Home Minister Zia ul Hasan Lanjhar said Special Security Unit commandos and the Anti-Terrorist Force were assisting Rangers personnel in the clean-up operation.

(With inputs from AFP, AP)

Ukrainian, Russian air strikes kill at least five, injure dozens

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian strikes killed two persons and wounded more than 20 in Ukraine, Kyiv said on Saturday, while Ukrainian retaliatory strikes on Russian-held territory and inside Russia killed three and wounded dozens, local officials said.

One person was killed and two injured in the central eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, regional military administration head Oleksandr Ganzha said on Telegram. "The enemy attacked two districts of the region more than 30 times with drones and aerial bombs," said Mr. Ganzha.

In Sumy district in the north, a 66-year-old man was killed in a Russian drone attack on a house, regional military governor Oleg Grygorov said.

"Last night, FP-5 Flamingo missiles successfully struck the Titan-Barrikady facility in Volgograd," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted on social media.

Desperation mounts in Venezuela as toll in twin earthquakes rises to 1,430

Associated Press
LA GUAIRA

Collapsed buildings in Catia La Mar, in La Guaira state, Venezuela, on Saturday, following earthquakes that struck the region. AFP

Tensions flared on Saturday as desperation grew among anguished residents of the Venezuelan state of La Guaira, where rescuers and civilians searched for earthquake survivors amid a sharply rising death toll.

Venezuela's government said the number of people killed rose to 1,430 on Saturday morning and families reported at least 68,900 people missing, three days after the one-two punch of 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes that devastated the South American nation.

Most of those digging were civilians who took search efforts into their own hands, and tensions peaked over inadequate response from the Venezuelan government, whose soldiers, firefighters, police and military cadets were evidently underprepared to respond to the tragedy.

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez said on state television on Saturday that more than 14,000 members of the military and police are patrolling the area, where access is now blocked and special permits are required to enter.

Meanwhile, the United Nations estimated that close to seven million people in the country may have been affected by the twin earthquakes that struck the nation.

Seoul says Chinese military planes enter its air defence zone

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

South Korea said it had sent up fighter jets as a precaution after more than 10 Chinese and Russian military aircraft entered its air defence zone on Saturday.

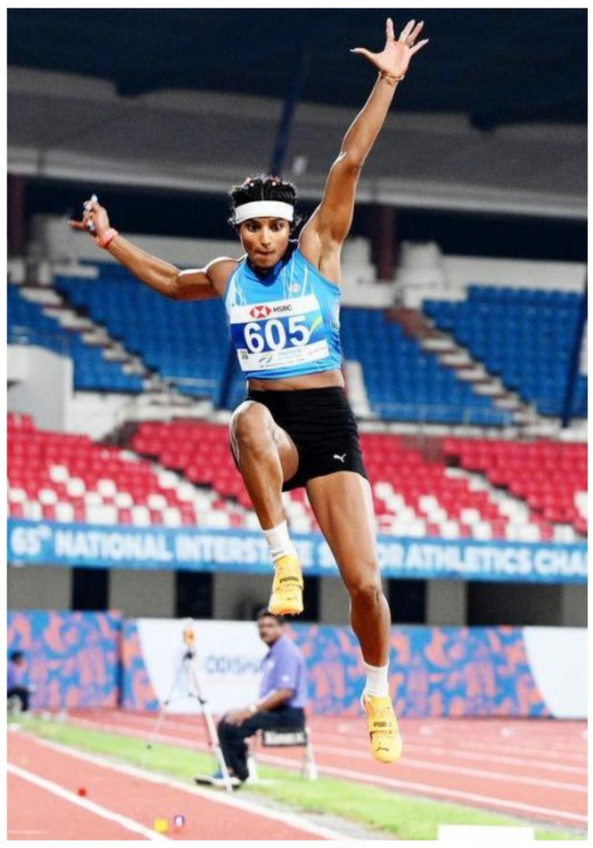
The Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul said the Chinese and Russian aircraft had entered and then left the Korea Air Defence Identification Zone (KADIZ) over the East Sea and the South Sea.

"South Korea's military detected the Chinese and Russian aircraft before they entered the zone and deployed Air Force fighter jets to prepare for any contingency," it said in a statement, without giving more details.

The Chinese and Russian aircraft did not violate South Korean airspace, it said.

An air defence identification zone is not sovereign airspace but a buffer area where countries identify approaching aircraft for security purposes.

Sport



Soaring high: Ancy showed commendable consistency before producing a jump of 6.88m in her fifth attempt. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Ancy shatters Anju's 22-year-old National record

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Ancy Sojan spectacularly erased Anju Bobby George's 22-year-old long jump National record – achieved at the Athens Olympics – by registering 6.88m while high jumper Sarvesh Kushare improved upon Tejaswin Shankar's eight-year-old National mark by logging 2.31m at the National inter-State athletics meet here on Saturday.

A persistent Ancy, who began with the biggest first jump of her career by recording 6.73m and qualifying for the Asian Games, showed commendable consistency before bringing out her best in her fifth attempt at the Kalinga Stadium and going past Anju's 6.83m.

Following some anxious moments, she erupted in joy when the new record was announced.

"I hope Anju ma'am will be proud of me. I want to repeat my performance to win the Asian Games gold and qualify for the World championships," said Asian Games silver medallist Ancy, who had achieved 6.75m at the Federation meet in Ranchi last month.

Sarvesh's doggedness also paid dividends as he surpassed Tejaswin's record of 2.29m. First, he achieved the Asian Games qualification mark before going for the big one. He failed in his first two attempts, but succeeded in his third to become the first Indian to go past 2.30m. His two efforts to clear 2.35m went in vain.

"Today, my body moved well and everything was in sync. Since I could not reach 2.30 in Ranchi, I tried 2.31 this time," said Sarvesh.

Yoonus Shah clocked 3:37.55 to break Bahadur Prasad's 31-year-old record in men's 1500m.

In men's 400m hurdles, Yashas (49.14) pipped Santhosh Kumar in a photo-finish.

The results (finals): Men: 100m (Asiad Q mark 10.16s): 1. Animesh Kujur (Odi) 10.28, 2. Pranav Gurav (Mah) 10.39, 3. Laukik Melge (Mah) 10.43; **1500m (Asiad Q mark 3:42.00):** 1. Yoonus Shah (UP) 3:37.55 (NMR, Old 3:40.10, Bahadur Prasad, 1995), 2. Gulveer Singh (UP) 3:38.31, 3. Rahul Baloda (Raj) 3:40.07; **400m hurdles (Asiad Q mark 49.41s):** 1. Yashas P. (Kar) 49.14 (49.131) (NMR, Old 49.37, Yashas, 2023), 2. Santhosh Kumar T. (TN) 49.14 (49.138), 3. Aryan Prajwal Kashyap (Kar) 50.95; **High jump (Asiad Q mark 2.19m):** 1. Sarvesh Kushare (Mah) 2.31 (NR, Old 2.29, Tejaswin Shankar, 2018), 2. Aadarsh Ram (TN) 2.25m, 3. Jesse Sandesh (Kar) 2.19m; **Shot put (Asiad Q mark 19.41m):** 1. Karanveer Singh (Pun) 20.49, 2. Samardeep Gill (MP) 20.40, 3. Tajinderpal Toor (Pun) 20.27.

Women: 100m (Asiad Q mark 11.54s): 1. Sudeshna Shivankar (Mah) 11.54, 2. Sneha S.S. (Kar) 11.65, 3. Amasha De Silva (SL) 11.70; **1500m (Asiad Q 4: 19.45):** 1. Parul Chaudhary (UP) 4:20.45, 2. Ankita Dhyani (Utk) 4:20.78, 3. Pooja Ola (Har) 4:21.48; **400m hurdles (Asiad Q mark 57.21s):** 1. R. Vithya Ramraj (TN) 56.07, 2. Anu R. (Ker) 56.54, 3. Sinchal (Kar) 58.90; **Long jump (Asiad Q mark 6.48m):** 1. Ancy Sojan (Ker) 6.88 (NR, Old 6.83, Anju Bobby George, 2004), 2. Shaili Singh (UP) 6.67m, 3. Mubassina Mohammed (Lak) 6.53; **Javelin (Asiad Q mark 57.62m):** 1. Annu Rani (UP) 56.74, 2. Karishma Sanil (Kar) 53.06, 3. Uma Choudhary (Raj) 53.06; **Heptathlon (Asiad Q mark 5605 points):** 1. Anamika K.A. (Ker) 3273, 2. Khushi (Har) 3248, 3. Purnima Hembram (Odi) 3238.

Technical goof-up forces hurdler to do solo re-run

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

In a bizarre development, R. Harshitha, a 400m hurdler from Tamil Nadu, had to run alone during her heats on Saturday following an overnight technical goof-up in the National inter-State athletics meet.

Despite her determined solo re-run on her debut at the meet, the 21-year-old Harshitha clocked 1:02.54 on Saturday morning to narrowly miss out a berth in the final by 0.05 seconds.

A day before, Harshitha, running in lane No. 8, was surprised not to find the fifth of the 10 hurdles.

She switched to lane No. 7 to jump over the hurdle there and went on to finish the race. When she saw the video, she noticed that the technical officials had not placed the hurdle at the designated spot.

Harshitha raised a complaint, following which the AFI, as per rules, allowed her to do a re-run at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday.

"They said, 'you should have run in your own lane'. If I (had) run, I would have missed my rhythm without a hurdle," said Harshitha.

"I was totally confused. I thought I went onto the outer lane. So I came into the seventh lane. After finishing, I understood what I did. When I saw (the live telecast), there was no fifth hurdle and I reported that. They asked me to re-run."

It is reliably learnt that the AFI has issued a 24-hour show-cause notice to the two technical officials.

UNPERTURBED

It was a no-brainer: Norway coach on leaving out Haaland, Odegaard

GETTY IMAGES

Norway coach Stale Solbakken defended his decision to leave out star duo Erling Haaland and Martin Odegaard in Friday's 1-4 World Cup defeat to France. "It was a no-brainer, for me, for the physio and for the medical staff," said Solbakken after he made 10 changes to his starting line-up following the 3-2 win over Senegal.

TRIUMPHANT

Nagal wins in Targu Mures for his first title in two years

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

India's No.1 Sumit Nagal beat Felix Balshaw of France 6-3, 7-5 to win the Targu Mures Challenger (Romania) on Saturday. It was his seventh Challenger title and fifth on clay. It was the first win for the 28-year-old since winning the Heilbronn Challenger in June 2024. He had beaten Cezar Cretu 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 in the semifinal.

EBB AND FLOW

Smith shines as New Zealand takes the lead against England

AP

Nathan Smith shone with four wickets as New Zealand ended day three with a 204-run lead over England in the third Test at Trent Bridge on Saturday. **The scores:** NZ 438 & 120/3 in 35 overs (Rachin 60 batting) vs. England 354 in 88.2 overs (Duckett 113, Bethell 74, Brook 58, Smith 4/91, O'Rourke 3/53, Foulkes 3/35).

THE WAIT ENDS

Ireland stuns West Indies, halts 21-game losing streak

GETTY IMAGES

Ireland ended a 21-match losing streak against West Indies when it won by six wickets in a T20 World Cup Group B clash in Bristol on Saturday. Windies would have qualified for the semis if it had won. **The scores:** WI 128/7 in 20 overs (Maguire 2/22, Murray 2/13) lost to Ireland 129/4 in 18.1 overs (Prendergast 63, Munisar 2/28).

Spain sends Bielsa's Uruguay packing after goalkeeper gaffe

The Iberian giant tops Group H and avoids a potential round-of-32 clash with Argentina; instead minnow Cape Verde will take on the title holder after securing second spot with a goalless stalemate against Saudi Arabia

FIFA WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
GUADALAJARA

Uruguay bowed out of the World Cup as goalkeeper Fernando Muslera's howler gifted Spain a 1-0 win to secure top spot in Group H.

Alex Baena's weak shot slipped through Muslera's grasp for the only goal as Spain avoided a last 32 showdown against Argentina.

The European champion will instead face Austria or Algeria next in Los Angeles on Thursday.

Uruguay's defeat allowed debutant Cape Verde secure second place and a meeting with the defending champion, thanks to a 0-0 draw against Saudi Arabia. Two-time winner Uruguay becomes the highest-ranked side to crash out in the group stages as the defeat rounded off a miserable tournament for Marcelo Bielsa and his squad.

Blunder: Muslera had Baena's weak shot covered but inexplicably allowed it to slip through. AP

The standings

GROUP H	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Spain (Q)	3	2	1	0	5	0	5	7
Cape Verde (Q)	3	0	3	0	2	2	0	3
Uruguay (E)	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	2
Saudi Arabia (E)	3	0	2	1	1	5	-4	2

Q: Qualified | **E:** Eliminated — Source: FIFA

After draws against Cape Verde and Saudi Arabia, reports of a revolt in the Uruguay camp emerged, with leading players, including Federico Valverde, clashing with Bielsa over his tactics.

To rub salt into Uruguayan wounds, midfielder Manuel Ugarte was injured in the build-up to Baena's goal and stretchered off with what appeared a serious knee injury.

Uruguay's miserable tournament was summed up when Agustín Canobbio was shown a straight red card in stoppage time for a wild lunge on Pau Cubarsi.

THE RESULTS

Group I: Senegal 5 (Diarra 4, I Sarr 56, P Gueye 59, 71, I Ndiaye 82) bt Iraq 0.
Norway 1 (Aasgaard 21) lost to France 4 (Dembele 7, 20, 32, Doue 90+4).
Group H: Uruguay 0 lost to Spain 1 (Baena 42).
Cape Verde 0 drew with Saudi Arabia 0.
Group G: New Zealand 1 (Just 84) lost to Belgium 5 (Trossard 28, 50, De Bruyne 66, Lukaku 86, Saelemaekers 90+4).
Egypt 1 (Saber 5) drew with Iran 1 (Rezaeian 14).

Confirmed round-of-32 games
South Africa vs. Canada; Brazil vs. Japan; Germany vs. Paraguay; Netherlands vs. Morocco; Ivory Coast vs. Norway; France vs. Sweden; USA vs. Bosnia and Herzegovina; Australia vs. Egypt; Argentina vs. Cape Verde

Monday's matches

ROUND OF 32

South Africa vs. **Canada,** 00.30 a.m.

Brazil vs. **Japan,** 10.30 p.m.

The day and time(s) pertain to India

India has its task cut out against high-flying Australia

T20 WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

These Aussies come hard at you. They come harder when you hurt them.

After getting knocked out by India in the ODI World Cup semifinal at Navi Mumbai last October, the Australian women whitewashed India in a three-match series Down Under. Before that, after being blown away by Harmanpreet Kaur in the semifinal of the 2017 World Cup at Derby, they did the same: they crushed India 3-0 at Vadodara.

When the sides clash in the last league match of the T20 World Cup at Lord's here on Sunday, the Aussies would want to avenge India for inflicting their first bilateral series loss at home in nine years (a 1-2 defeat in a three-match T20I series in February). But, the Women in Blue will be ready for the challenge as they are in a must-win situation.

Since the in-form South Africans are expected to win against Bangladesh, in the first match of the double-header at Lord's, the fight for the semifinal spot is hard for India. The Australians, thanks to their much superior Net Run Rate, are almost certain to reach the last four.

They have looked the most complete side. But, they must also be very conscious of the fact that India is one team that has given them tough competition of late. If it is a problem of plenty when it comes to the selection for the Australian team, India has not exactly been able to get the combinations perfect. If Australia is brimming with quality all-rounders, India hasn't really got one apart from that trusted servant of the team, Deepti Sharma.

There isn't much batting after her, but Radha Yadav, who took three wickets against Bangladesh in her first match of the tournament, makes the tail look less long. Sadly, it has been her dropped catches that have become a hot topic of discussion, but she remains the best fielder in the team.

India's catching overall has been disappointing, but this team is strong and experienced enough not to be affected too much by it. And India has the firepower in batting to cause headaches for even a bowling attack as strong as Australia's.

If Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Harmanpreet Kaur or Jemimah Rodrigues, who regained her touch and helped India tide over a mini-crisis against Bangladesh, get going, it may not be easy for Australia.

The six-time champion is further strengthened by the recovery of Phoebe Litchfield, who hasn't played a game after getting injured in the first match against South Africa, in which she made a 24-ball 50.

Moment of reckoning: A lot will depend on how Jemimah and Harmanpreet perform in the big game. GETTY IMAGES

Senegal's rout of Iraq does the trick; Dembele wreaks havoc

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

Ousmane Dembele scored a first-half hat-trick as France powered past Norway 4-1 to clinch top spot in World Cup Group I on Friday as Senegal thumped Iraq 5-0. Paris Saint-Germain's reigning Ballon D'Or winner Dembele scored in the seventh, 20th and 32nd minutes.

The Kylian Mbappe-Erling Haaland showdown never materialised after Norway opted to leave Haaland – and nine of the team's other regular starters – on the bench.

France will face one of the eight best third-placed teams in the last 32, while Norway will take on Ivory Coast. Senegal, which has three points with a plus-two goal difference, sealed its knockout spot Group G and Group H results went in its favour.

Hat-trick hero: Dembele put the game beyond Norway. AFP

The standings

GROUP I	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
France (Q)	3	3	0	0	10	2	8	9
Norway (Q)	3	2	0	1	8	7	1	6
Senegal (Q)	3	1	0	2	8	6	2	3
Iraq (E)	3	0	0	3	1	12	-11	0

Q: Qualified | **E:** Eliminated — Source: FIFA

The standings

GROUP G	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Belgium (Q)	3	1	2	0	6	2	4	5
Eygpt (Q)	3	1	2	0	5	3	2	5
Iran	3	0	3	0	3	3	0	3
New Zealand (E)	3	0	1	2	4	10	-6	1

Q: Qualified | **E:** Eliminated — Source: FIFA

Flawless Belgium and nervy Egypt advance

Agencies
VANCOUVER

Belgium defeated New Zealand 5-1 to book its place in the knockout rounds of the World Cup on Friday, securing its first win of the tournament to finish on top of Group G in Vancouver.

A double strike from Leandro Trossard and goals from Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Saelemaekers carried the Red Devils into the last 32 in first place ahead of Egypt on goal difference.

Egypt claimed the runner-up spot after a 1-1 draw with Iran in Seattle. The Iranians finished third.

Iran had a potential winning goal called back due to an offside, and will have to wait one day to find out its fate after the two teams played to a 1-1 draw.

We want to play aggressively against the Aussies: Smriti

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

When Smriti Mandhana has a bad day, which isn't that often fortunately for Indian women's cricket, she goes back to videos of Matthew Hayden and Kumar Sangakkara. So when she got an opportunity the other day to talk to the former Australian opener, she took advantage of that.

"When I saw him doing the commentary, I got excited," Smriti said ahead of India's T20 World Cup match against Australia.

"We had a good chat and I wanted to know about things like the grip. I wasn't sure about talking with him before a game against Australia, but he was really kind and sweet. He shared a lot of things, which I hope I can apply to my batting."

Smriti said it was indeed a big match for India against Australia. "We have all spoken a lot about how we really want to be playing the aggressive brand of cricket and that is something which we will all look to do on Sunday," she said. "Everyone is itching to go."

Smriti is glad that her opening partnership with Shafali Verma is rocking again, after a bit of wobble.

"We had a very quiet series in England (before the World Cup) but we both were really pumped up to get back to giving the good starts for India because whenever we lay the foundation, we are in a good place. I am really happy with the way Shafali is striking the ball."

Smriti was also glad to see the way her opening partner was contributing with the ball of late.

"She has been amazing," Smriti said. "She did that in the World Cup final, then a little bit in the WPL as well. I remember her getting the Player-of-the-Match award for her bowling in the WPL. It is quite handy to have her as a bowler".

Smriti and Hayden. ICC

Today's matches

Lord's, 3 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 15
South Africa 12
Bangladesh 2 | NR 1

Lord's, 7 p.m. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 38
Australia 27 | India 10
NR 1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Football's future steps into the present

Ayon Sengupta
DALLAS

Nine years ago, the first FIFA tournament hosted in India offered a glimpse into football's future.

Packed stadiums in New Delhi, Kolkata, Kochi, Navi Mumbai, Goa and Guwahati watched teenagers chasing their dreams. But many have disappeared into the game's unforgiving talent vortex. But 18 of those youngsters are now back on football's biggest stage, representing their countries at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

No nation has produced more graduates than Japan. Five members of Hajime Moriyasu's squad – Keito Nakamura, Takefusa Kubo, Zion Suzuki, Yukinari Sugawara and Ayumu Seko – first experienced FIFA competition in India. And among the 18 players to have made that remarkable leap, none has left a greater mark on this World Cup than Nakamura (two goal contributions).

Nakamura's partnership with Kubo has evolved over almost a decade. During Japan's opening match of the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup, Nakamura scored a first-half hat-trick in a 6-1 victory over Honduras. His first goal came from a Kubo corner before Kubo added one of his own before half-time.

Nine years later, the script remains familiar.

Against the Netherlands, Kubo burst into the left side of the penalty area before cutting the ball back into what Japanese media call the "Keito Zone" – an area where Nakamura has proved to be lethal since his days at the Mitsubishi Yowa youth academy.

The 2017 u-17 WC introduced Indian fans to a generation that is now reaching its peak. Nine years later, many of those teenagers – like Nakamura, Kubo, Aurelien Tchouameni, Eric Garcia and Ferran Torres – have become the faces of their national teams, proving that football's youth tournaments are remembered for the careers they set in motion.

Nakamura and Kubo. AFP

2017 U-17 WC, 2026 FIFA WC: the common thread

Japan: Keito Nakamura, Takefusa Kubo, Zion Suzuki, Yukinari Sugawara, Ayumu Seko; **France:** Aurelien Tchouameni, Maxence Lacroix; **Spain:** Eric Garcia, Ferran Torres; **USA:** Sergino Dest, Tim Weah; **NZ:** Bill Tuiloma Just, Liberato Cacace; **Turkiye:** Yunus Akgun; **Haiti:** Wilson Isidor; **Algeria:** Amine Gouiri; **England:** Marc Guehi; **Ivory Coast:** Seko Fofana.

INBRIEF

Mercedes driver Russell grabs pole for the Austrian GP

Mercedes' George Russell claimed pole position ahead of the two Ferraris for Sunday's Austrian GP in Spielberg.

The starting grid: First row: George Russell (Mercedes), Charles Leclerc (Ferrari); **Second:** Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari), Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes); **Third:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull), Lando Norris (McLaren); **Fourth:** Oscar Piastri (McLaren), Isack Hadjar (Red Bull); **Fifth:** Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls), Arvid Lindblad (Racing Bulls); **Sixth:** Pierre Gasly (Alpine), Gabriel Bortoleto (Audi), **Seventh:** Oliver Bearman (Haas), Nico Hulkenberg (Audi); **Eighth:** Estaben Ocon (Haas), Franco Colapinto (Alpine); **Ninth:** Carlos Sainz (Williams), Alexander Albon (Williams); **10th:** Sergio Perez (Cadillac), Valtteri Bottas (Cadillac), **11th:** Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin), Lance Stroll (Aston Martin).

Nabi's four-wicket burst puts India-A in the driver's seat

Pacer Auqib Nabi's four-wicket burst put India-A in the driver's seat with an overall lead of 170 runs against Sri Lanka-A on the third day of the first 'Test' in Galle on Saturday.

The scores: India-A 452/6 decl & 48/0 in 17 overs vs. Sri Lanka-A 330 in 101.4 overs (Fernando 84, Bandara 70, Arachchige 72, Nabi 4/58).

Indonesia pips India, makes AVC Cup title decider

Indonesia halted India's five-match winning streak in the AVC Men's Volleyball Cup as it emerged victorious 15-25, 26-24, 25-20, 19-25, 15-13 in the semifinal in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

Jr Indian shuttlers enter the Asian mixed team quarters

India sealed a spot in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia junior mixed team championships with a 2-0 (55-31, 55-21) victory over Kazakhstan in its Group-C opener in Yatsushiro, Japan, on Saturday.

Jangoo and Chase keep WI in the hunt for lead

Amir Jangoo (78 batting) and captain Roston Chase (42 batting) took the West Indies within reach of Sri Lanka's first innings total as the home side closed day two of the first Test in North Sound at 271 for five.

The scores: Sri Lanka 308 in 71.5 overs vs West Indies 271/5 in 84 overs (Jangoo 78 batting, Chase 42 batting).

LIVE TELECAST

FIFA World Cup: Unite8 Sports 1, 2 & Z5 App, 7.30 a.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar. 3 p.m.; **Australia vs India,** 7 p.m.

England vs New Zealand: Third Test, Day 4, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Ireland vs India: Second T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6 p.m.

Formula One: Austrian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

WI vs SL: First Test, Day 4, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

India eyes improved batting show in its bid to level series

After coming a cropper in the opening match, Shreyas' men will hope to sign off the short tour on a winning note; the host is a step away from scripting another piece of history

INDIA IN IRELAND

Press Trust of India
BELFAST

India's star-studded batting line-up will be under pressure to make amends when it takes on a buoyant Ireland in the second and final T20I here on Sunday.

After a shock defeat in the opener, Shreyas Iyer's men need a win to level the series. Playing its first match since the T20 World Cup triumph in March, India was handed one of its biggest upsets as Ireland registered its maiden victory over the Men in Blue in any format.

With the five-game series against England beginning on Wednesday at Chester-le-Street, Shreyas will be eager to sign off the short Ireland tour on a winning note.

The biggest concern from the opening game was India's batting collapse. Sanju Samson lasted just four balls before becoming debutant Jai Moondra's maiden international wicket while Ishan Kishan and Shreyas, too, fell for single-digit scores inside the PowerPlay.

Abhishek Sharma carried on in his explosive manner but lacked support from the other end. The team management, however, is unlikely to press the panic button after one just defeat.

Even as the batting unit disappointed in the first match, the bowling pack offered positives. Harshit Rana made an impressive comeback after a four-month layoff due to a knee injury, using his variations smartly to return figures of three for 24.

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh and left-arm spinner Axar Patel also bowled well. As for the Lorcan Tucker-led Ireland, it will be brimming with confidence after having scripted history on Friday.

(Match starts at 6 p.m. IST).

Pace threat: Hollard, who had posed a tough challenge to the Indian batters on Friday, will look to impress again. GETTY IMAGES

Class apart: India u-19 women proved too good for Sri Lanka.

Coach Nooshin aims to build bench strength

U-19 CRICKET

Rajdeep Saha
CHENNAI

The India under-19 women's team sealed a 3-0 whitewash over Sri Lanka u-19 with a lap of honour around the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium as a mark of gratitude to the 500-odd spectators who egged them on. Watching on from a distance was head coach Nooshin Al Khadeer, who has made successes something of a habit.

Nooshin, who took over the u-19 set-up in 2022, will eye a hat-trick of T20 World Cup crowns when the third edition starts early next year. "We have zonal camps in April and May. Usually, they're at different venues, but we were lucky to have this year's camp at the Bengaluru Centre of Excellence," Nooshin told *The Hindu*.

Nooshin and the selectors will keep close tabs on the domestic season, which starts with the u-19 T20 Trophy Elite on Oct. 9, and assignments like the tour of England and the proposed Asia Cup to firm up the World Cup squad.

"The ultimate goal is to reach a point where we can push in two Indian teams coming in, and that's going to happen... I'm not too crazy about the limelight. These players are the ones who are going to steal the show".

The scores: Sri Lanka u-19 116/7 in 20 overs (Nethmi Upeksha 51 n.o.) lost to India u-19 120/3 in 18.4 overs (Bhavika Ahire 50); **Toss:** SL; **PoM:** Nethmi. **PoS:** Bhavika.

Rohan and Praveen help Blasters consolidate top spot

The architect: Opener Rohan put Blasters on the path to victory. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau

Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters recorded a seven-wicket victory over Shivamogga Yodhas in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament in Hubballi on Saturday.

Chasing 174, the Blasters reached the target with an over to spare, as Praveen Dubey carried his team home with an unbeaten 39 off just 15 balls (3x4, 3x6).

It was the Blasters' fourth victory and helped consolidate their position at the top of the table with eight points. Rohan Patil top-scored with 62 (46b, 5x4, 2x6), and was first involved in a solid 65-run partnership for the opening wicket with Bhuvan Mohan Raju (29, 23b, 3x4, 1x6), and then put on 54 with K.L. Shrijith (21, 18b, 1x4, 1x6).

Rohan and Shrijith fell in quick succession but Praveen and captain Shubhang Hegde (11 n.o., 12b) ensured there would be no more hiccups.

Earlier, Luvnith Sisodia scored his third half-century of the competition (51, 32b, 6x4, 2x6) but his teammates couldn't score keep pace. K.V. Aneesh made a 24-ball 29 while skipper R. Smaran managed 36 unbeaten runs from 27 balls.

The cheap dismissals of Harshil Dharmani (1) and Yashovardhan Parantap (0) did not help. The loss was Yodhas' third from five matches, leaving the side on four points.

The scores: Shivamogga Yodhas 173/6 in 20 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 51) lost to Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters 177/3 in 19 overs (Rohan Patil 62).

Mysore Warriors 155/7 in 20 overs (K.P. Karthikeya 63) lost to Gulbarga Mystics 156/7 in 18.5 overs (B.R. Sharath 49, Manish Pandey 43 n.o., Ritesh Bhatkal 4/20).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Double for Kaashvi

BENGALURU: Karnataka's Kaashvi Venkat clinched both the singles and doubles titles at the Asian Tennis Federation U-12 tennis in Jaipur on Saturday. In the singles final, Kaashvi beat Maharashtra's Sejal Jadav 6-0, 7-5. In doubles, she combined with Adira Bhagat to beat S. Swastika and Araina Vishal 6-0, 6-2.

Kaashvi Venkat clinched both the singles and doubles titles.

KGA elections held

Col. C.P. Nanjappa (Retd.) and Roopa Pratap were elected president and captain of the Karnataka Golf Association for 2026-27 at the AGM conducted on Friday.

Other office-bearers:
Secretary: Hari R. Achanta;
Treasurer: Devaiah S. Thennira;
Committee members: Ashok Gowda, Girish C. Panth, A.S. Kumaran, C. Prasanth and J.M. Swamy.

Vultures outclass Johnson

N. Bhuvan Gowda smashed an unbeaten 221, Atharv Malviya chipped in with 147, and R. Jayanth Gowda took five wickets (5/13) as Vultures CC outclassed Johnson CC in the KSCA under-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Vultures 385/1 in 50 overs (Atharv Malviya 147, N. Bhuvan Gowda 221 n.o.) bt Johnson 77 in 28.3 overs (R. Jayanth Gowda 5/13).

Jawahar (2) 86 in 25.2 overs lost to Swastic Union (2) 87/2 in 11.2 overs.

Jayanagar Cricketers 194 in 47.1 overs lost to Bangalore Star CA 195/6 in 37 overs (R. Pruthvi Raj 42, P. Bhanu 51 n.o.).

Vijaya, Malur 290 in 46.1 overs (Kutam Charan Ram 134, Om Agarwalla 50) bt South End 155 in 42.4 overs (S. Dhavan Srijan 78 n.o.).

Caravan Cricketers 122 in 41.3 overs lost to Bangalore SC 125/4 in 20.4 overs.

Whirlwind Cricketers 152 in 39.5 overs (Vijay Maller 4/29) lost to Bangalore Cricketers 153 for no loss in 16.2 overs (S. Daivik 106 n.o.).

Visweswarapuram (2) 260/6 in 50 overs (Vishwas Goud 58, A. Mohmmed Raheel 47) bt Wilson Garden 233 in 46.4 overs (Sujay Bhushan Patil 85, Manish Benjamin John 55, D. Trijal 4/41).

Freelancers 127 in 31.1 overs (Rushan Hyder 51) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 128/5 in 26.4 overs.

Wadiyar 133 in 26.5 overs (Akshay Ravi Sastry 6/35) lost to National Cricketers 136/6 in 22.3 overs.

Jayanagar United Cricketers 248 in 49.3 overs (Ekansh Roul 66, Rishabh Dhariwal 41) bt Malleswaram Gymkhana 114 in 32.5 overs (S. Keerthan Shenoy 4/21).

GCL Season 4 draft tomorrow

Sports Bureau

The draft for the fourth edition of the Global Chess League (GCL) will be held in Mumbai on Monday.

The league will see the return of Magnus Carlsen while Divya Deshmukh is set to make her debut. The GCL, a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and FIDE, will be held in Bengaluru from September 3 to 13.

The player pool features 36 GMs, including World champions and leading names from the global circuit. The list includes Viswanathan Anand, Javokhir Sindarov, and K. Humpy among others.

Neeraj. FILE PHOTO

AFI confirms Neeraj for Asian Games

Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR

Indian javelin throw superstar Neeraj Chopra will compete in the Asian Games in Japan in September-October in his bid to defend the title, Athletics Federation of India's (AFI) selection committee chairman Adille Sumariwalla confirmed on Saturday.

Recovering from a lower-back injury he had sustained before the Tokyo World Championships in September 2025, Neeraj made a late start to the season at the Doha Diamond League where he finished fourth with a throw of 85.69m.

"Yes. He (Neeraj) will participate both in the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games. He has qualified already and he is recovering.

"He has done 86m (85.69m) in his very first event, which is fantastic," Sumariwalla said.

Devika gets the better of third seed Gunji

Press Trust of India
FULLERTON

Devika Sihag upset third seed Riko Gunji to reach the US Open badminton semifinals in Fullerton.

Later in the day, Former world No. 1 K. Srikanth packed off Liao Jhuo-Fu of Taiwan 21-9, 12-21, 21-8.

The results (quarterfinals):
Women: Devika Sihag bt Riko Gunji 22-20, 21-19; Line Christophersen bt Tanvi Sharma 21-16, 11-21, 21-11; Rachel Chan bt Rakshitha Sree 15-21, 21-16, 21-12. **Men:** Rounak Chouhan bt Misha Zilberman 23-21, 21-11; K. Srikanth bt Liao Jhuo-Fu 21-9, 12-21, 21-8.

Iron Mirage claims feature event

RACING

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar trained Iron Mirage (Akshay K up) won the S.M. Cama Music and Production Pvt Ltd Juvenile Sprinters' Million (1,200m), the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (June 27).
The winner is owned by Mr. Meka Yugandhar, Capt Jamshed J. Appoo, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP.

1. SMART CHIEFTAN PLATE (1,400M): RAMPAGE (Yash) 1, Ashwa New York (Suraj) 2, Shining Path (Akshay K) 3 and Taaqath (S. Saqlain) 4. 2-1/2, 2-3/4 and 1. 1m 25.10s. Rs. 15 (w), 11, 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 20, THP: 28, FP: 24, Q: 15, Trinella: 37/42, Exacta: 162/182. Favourite: Rampage.
Owner: J.M. Livestock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Jaydev M. Mody. Trainer: Shazaan Shah.

2. POONAWALLA STUD PLATE (DIV. II), 1,200M: DEFENCE COUNSEL (G. Vivek) 1, Bestidentification (A. Asbar) 2, La Mcqueen (Aleemuddin) 2 and Aherne (Antony) 4. 4, Hd and 1-1/2. 1m 12.49s. Rs. 40 (w), 13, 12 and 13 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 34, FP: 103, Q: 30, Trinella: 206/136, Exacta: 1,332/666. Favourite: Bestidentification.
Owner: Mr. M. Venkatesh. Trainer: S. Dominic.

3. ASTRONOMIC PLATE (2,000M): YOUREMANORBORNE (Sandesh) 1, Winfield (Antony) 2, Storm Shadow (G. Vivek) 3 and Badshaah (Abdul Fazal) 4. Not run: Maana. 3/4, 1 and 2. 2m 08.67s. Rs. 14 (w), 10, 11 and 11 (p), SHP: 23, THP: 32, FP: 23, Q: 24, Trinella: 40/26, Exacta: 168/109. Favourite: Youremanorborne.
Owner: Mr. B. Vijeth Bhandari. Trainer: P.S. Chouhan.

4. MANAGING COMMITTEE GOLD CUP (1,600M): PROMISEOFTHEFUTURE (Neeraj) 1, Xanthe (Hindu S) 2, Touch Of Grey (Saurav Rawat) 3 and Victor Hugo (A. Hangal) 4. Not run: Emphatic. 4-1/4, 3 and 2-1/2. 1m 36.94s. Rs. 19 (w), 11 and 13 (p), SHP: 21, THP: 38, FP: 31, Q: 22, Trinella: 214/159, Exacta: 699/202. Favourite: Promiseofthefuture.
Owner: Ms. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

5. S.M. CAMA MUSIC AND PRODUCTION PVT LTD JUVENILE SPINTERS' MILLION (1,200M): IRON MIRAGE (Dreamfield - Setareh) Akshay K 1, Shrishti (Win Legend - Bright Future) Yash 2, A Great Buzz (Leitir Mor - Flaming Martini) Pavan 3 and Burevestnik (Air Support - Defiance) Sandesh 4. 9-1/2, 3/4 and 9-1/4. 1m 11.39s. Rs. 11 (w), 10 and 31 (p), SHP: 46, THP: 23, FP: 61, Q: 40, Trinella: 204/37, Exacta: 128/56. Favorite: Iron Mirage.
Owners: Mr. Meka Yugandhar, Capt Jamshed J. Appoo, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP.
Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. MALAKPET PLATE (1,300M): SHINING WAYS (Suraj) 1, Power Of The Sea (S. Shareef) 2, Lasya (Vishal Bunde) 3 and Rocking Star (R. Pradeep) 4. Not run: Big B. 3, 1 and 3/4. 1m 19.26s. Rs. 14 (w), 13, 22 and 31 (p), SHP: 69, THP: 53, FP: 196, Q: 102, Trinella: 991/328, Exacta: 3,866/1,656. Favourite: Shining Ways.
Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. Teja Gollapudi, Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: S. Narredu.

7. POONAWALLA STUD PLATE (DIV. I), 1,200M: KABALI (R. Pradeep) 1, Felisa (Arvind K) 2, Aquastic (S. Sachin) 3 and Senor Cherie (Akshay K) 4. 2-3/4, 1/2 and 1/2. 1m 11.48s. Rs. 67 (w), 19, 17 and 12 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 40, FP: 1,483, Q: 631, Trinella: 1,376/944, Exacta: 7,508/3,217. Favourite: Aquastic.
Owner: Mr. Santhosh. P. Trainer: G. Sandhu.
Jackpot: Rs. 1,908; Runner up: 27; Mini Jackpot: 1,139; Treble (i): 171; (ii): 505.

Knotty Charmer and Rieko may fight out the finish of Chief Minister's Cup

BENGALURU: Knotty Charmer and Rieko may fight out the finish of the Chief Minister's Cup (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (June 28).

False rails (width about 5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 LITTLEOVER PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.00 p.m.: 1. Auspicious King (6) Kiran Rai 56, 2. Calix (7) Akshay K 56, 3. Panache (9) G. Vivek 56, 4. Abbakka (2) Arvind K 54.5, 5. Charming Prospect (8) A. Asbar 54.5, 6. Haniel (1) Arul 54.5, 7. Preview (5) Suraj 54.5, 8. Sai Princess (4) Jagadeesh 54.5 and 9. Time Tester (3) Darshan 54.5.
1. CALIX, 2. HANIEL, 3. PREVIEW

2 MAHALAKSHMI PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 2.30: 1. Detective Conan (9) Arul 61.5, 2. Sea Diamond (8) Vishal S 61.5, 3. Big Sauce (7) Pavan 61, 4. Magna Carta (3) S. Sachin 61, 5. Superhero (2) Bhawani S 60.5, 6. Michiko (4) Kiran Rai 59.5, 7. Bruce Almighty (6) Neeraj 59, 8. Rising Form (5) Faizan Khan 58 and 9. Princess Jasmine (1) Suhas K 56.
1. MICHIKO, 2. MAGNA CARTA, 3. SEA DIAMOND

3 RICHELIEU STAKES (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 3.00: 1. Queendom (7) Akshay K 60, 2. Dream Walkin' (2) G. Vivek 59, 3. Super Charm (1) Saurav Rawat 59, 4. Mericle Beauty (6) Ankush 58.5, 5. Steely Challenge (4) Antony 58, 6. Lightning Blitz (8) Suraj 57, 7. Lots Of Luck (-) (-) 56.5 and 8. Tiger Bay (3) Kiran Rai 56.5.
1. STEELY CHALLENGE, 2. LIGHTNING BLITZ, 3. DREAM WALKIN'

4 CHIEF MINISTER'S CUP (1,200m), 4-y-o over, (Terms), 3.30: 1. Knotty Charmer (3) Antony 60, 2. Crown Drive (5) Hindu S 57, 3. Dream Seller (4) Sandesh 57, 4. Kalamitsi (2) Akshay K 57 and 5. Rieko (1) Neeraj 57.
1. KNOTTY CHARMER, 2. RIEKO

5 KARNATAKA SUB-AREA CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 4.00: 1. Sekhmet (5) Rayan 60, 2. Mahler (7) G. Vivek 57.5, 3. Vegatha (2) Antony 57, 4. Irish Coffee (1) Arul 56, 5. Gachchhatu (8) Neeraj 54, 6. Jersey King (6) Lave Kumar 53, 7. Lux Aeterna (4) Akshay K 53 and 8. Victoria Doresaani (3) L.A. Rozario 51.
1. MAHLER, 2. VEGATHA, 3. GACHCHATU

6 TUDOR JET PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 4.30: 1. El Alamein (5) Vishwa V 60.5, 2. Agera (8) L.A. Rozario 59, 3. Noble Cause (6) S. Sachin 58.5, 4. IL Volo (1) Kiran Rai 58, 5. Carat Love (3) Akshay K 57, 6. River Deep (2) A. Asbar 56.5, 7. Super Kind (4) Vishal S 56, 8. Chotipari (9) Abhishek Mhatre 55 and 9. Glorious Spectre (7) Arul 55.
1. RIVER DEEP, 2. CARAT LOVE, 3. IL VOLO

7 DESERT GOD PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5.00: 1. Pledge (4) Akshay K 62.5, 2. Luca (6) S. Sachin 60, 3. Imperador (8) Vishal Bunde 57.5, 4. Shahenshaah (3) Abdul Fazal 57.5, 5. Regal Aristocracy (1) Antony 57, 6. Razzmatazz (5) Aditya W 56, 7. Absolute Thunder (7) Sai Kiran 52.5 and 8. Art Of Romance (2) Kiran Rai 52.
1. PLEDGE, 2. IMPERADOR, 3. REGAL ARISTOCRACY
Day's best: **STEELY CHALLENGE**
Double: **CALIX - MAHLER**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

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SUITABLE GROOM sought for our daughter, a well-educated professional in her late twenties, working in the UK. Looking for a well-settled groom (3033 years) with progressive values, an egalitarian outlook, and free from rigid patriarchal or caste-hierarchical beliefs. Mob:9840993455

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BRIDE GROOM WANTED

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9710209761, 9840425972

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EZHAVA GIRL, White Fair, 23, Bharani, 168 cm, B.Tech. EEE. Contact: 9495245179, 8848862175.

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THIYYA GIRL, 24/160cm. B.E., working in MNC. Seeking a suitable, qualified groom, same caste. Contact 9789084177

✔ **ALLIANCE INVITED for Hindu Ezhava girl, 29 years, MBBS, 152 cm, Ernakulam.Seeking professionally qualified Hindu Ezhava groom from a respectable family. Contact:9544589706.**

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SEEKING A well-educated groom (Kannada/Tamil speaking) for a Kannada Smartha Brahmin girl (MBA, born 1990, divorced, no issues). Proposals from divorced, unmarried,or widower (without issues) grooms settled in Bangalore, within the age of 37 to 40 years welcome. Contact Phone Number: 8105404780

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TAMIL MUSLIM girl 32/158cm, AVP-Principle Product Engineer, MNC, 34LPA, well-settled family, seeks Tamil speaking never married groom with similar bg. Ct. 63832 76233

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, catholic, 1993 borned, HR professional-MNC , with null and void order looking for Christian boy below 35 yrs, premier institute or IT professional with legal, church orders with clean habits, WhatsAp 9940099429

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CSI, ROYALE profile, BE, Business, seeking for a Rich/affluent match in CSI or Christian nadar. 8138900487

UDAYAR CHRISTIAN, 32, divorced, UK, looking for a Rich/affluent groom from 31-36 from Hindu or Christian. 8137001257

✔ **PARENTS OF** Tamil Muslim doctor girl doing MD and Residentship in govt medical college, 27yrs, 160cm, smart, reputed family, seek matching proposal from parents of doctor groom only. 9489465536 / 6381615274

CHRISTIAN, PILLAI, 36,M.Sc.,M Phil., Asst.Prof. Pondy,Seeks Groom FC/BC, below 39yrs. Ct: 98946-77892.

CHRISTIAN/ VELLALAR/ 26/ B.E, M.E., looking for professional grooms in Chennai. Ct: 9444466802

CHRISTIAN (BC) Girl, 36/172, B.Tech, MBA, Strategy Consultant at a MNC based in Chennai. Seeking a suitable Christian Groom with good family values. Caste no bar. Ct: 8778907487

PILLAI/MUDALIAR PROF qufd working Groom wanted for Hastham 38, fair MCA Chennai.8220757159/ 9444136336

SEEKING GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL for 44yrs unmarried Tamil SC Hindu Adi Dravida Female IT professional (20yrs exp) from Chennai holding Singapore PR. Contact +919790921761/+91 7200942776.

LOOKING FOR Bridegroom for 28 yr. smart Girl, (Nadar) MBA from NUS Singapore, not particular about Horoscope. Broad Minded with Modern outlook. What'sapp details to : 93421 04357

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HINDU VANNIYAR Girl May 1998, 162cm Kettai BE,Asst Manager Govt Bank. Seek Suitable Grooms.Ct: 9894128789

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIAR, Rich / affluent, MD, Fair, seeking for a suitable groom from equal caste in good looking from 27-31. 8138900412

DKV/SC, 32/ May 94, 167cm, Fair, BE (CS), Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. / Abroad. Ct:8056143638

HINDU MUDALIAR, 31 Age, 160cm, BE, Working in IT MNC 21 LPA, Seeks Suitable Groom CA, BE or Btech from Mudaliar or Sub Caste Call 7550251015

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ALLIANCE FOR 26, Pretty pursuing Ph.D in US seeks professionally qualified groom. Caste nobar. 8248569028

MUDALIAR PARENTS seek professional groom settled in UK for their daughter age 34 height 172 cm Revathi studied medicine in UK and working as surgeon. Ph: 9884452926

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VANNIYAR, RE Marriage, Age 30, Ayilyam, Employed in Bank, Groom Needed from Thanjavur, Kumbakonam & Madras Area only. Cont: 9840961251

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Tamil Iyengar Kausiga Uthram Doctor 29/165 working London seeks alliance from UK based Grooms. Contact: 9841031480 / 9444034369, Email Id: kodiyalam@gmail.com

TAMIL

Vadamal-Girl 24 Yrs, Iyer Athreyam B.E Sr. Engineer TAFE Chennai. Contact: 9543411210 / 9894679685.

Seeking alliance for a Ph.D.
Cultured, Naidu Girl 35 yrs, 165cm from a respectable family. Looking for a qualified well settled groom not exceeding 37 years.
Caste no bar
97909 08109

SUNNI MUSLIM
Doctor MS, 27yrs, Fair, Ht. 5.7
Seeking Tamil Nadu & Karnataka BRIDE GROOM
Well Educated, Well Settled, Financially Stable. Pref. Any Administrative Services or Master Degree or Doing Business, Pref. height 5.9 & Above
99402 99922

Hindu Valluvan 41yrs, MBA, IT. MNC Working, seeks Suitable Groom, CNB, First Marriage only. Ct: 98862 34181

Doctor MD FRCEM, Unmarried 37 Years/175, Working in UK seeks Hindu Professional Groom with clean habits Contact: 8826501199

INTERCASTE, M.TECH, Private, Ireland, looking for a 29-33 groom in European countries, rich/affluent any caste. 8138900575

ADIDRAVIDAR, CZECH republic, MS, looking for a same caste groom from 27-30 in rich/affluent. 7356483111

Mudaliar 27/160/ Fair / Normal / MBA daughter of an affluent family looking for a Groom of Chennai based - 9600136660

Tamil SC Brides- 29 yrs, B.Tech, MBA, IT, 13 LPA & 26 yrs, B.Sc. Seeking suitable Grooms. Contact - 9441677205

B.ARCH State Govt Girl 31/165cm Divorced No issues seeking handsome & qualfd groom from good family. CNB. 9445954257/9498385494

SozhiaVellalar B Tech unmarried 40/155 officer PS Bank CNB Contact: 9246899599

TELUGU

ANDHRA LADY Doctor, MD, 35, Fair, Slim, Good looking, Divorcee, Balija, highly Educated family, Well to do, requires suitable Bridegroom, Language No Barrier. Call: 9380273428

CAVARA NAIDU age 30 Software Engineer Thiruvonam maharam D/B 3.7.1996 groom wanted Contact number: 9790548816

29YR NAIDU Divorce Bride,MA,BEd. from an affluent, educated family seeks alliance Ph 6385293227

GIRL 32 fair 168cm we are looking for groom intrested moving in our house only ct9363714007 divorced no issues.

HINDU, GAVARA, Age 29/ 162, B.E Comp. girl seeks suitable groom from naidu/subcaste from Tamil Nadu.9443009611.

INVITING TELUGU Groom, 35y, ht 160+cm. W: 9994032994 (industrialist parents only).

GAJULU BALIJA Naidu, Chennai, 26/ 158, fair, attractive seeks professional from good family. Ct:9600013579

NAIDU 27/167 Fair, Beautiful, ME, Manufacturing Unit, ATO 12 Cr, Elite,150 Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Naidu Girl 30/165cm Aswini pursuing PhD Doctoral studies in Satellite Communications Neuromorphic Computing European space agency Europe-completing by Dec 2026 seeking suitable Groom PhD / MS in USA. 9840103686

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

DM DOCTOR(6'1–Tamil–Hastham) seeks a virtuous, tall, slim, v.fair PG Doctor/ well edu bride (29–31 yrs) at Bangalore.Parents: 9342529547 / 9072118800

BRIDE WANTED
Affluent Teli / Gandla / Telikula Telugu Family
based in Hyderabad looking for an alliance for their son
35 Years; M.S.; Industrialist; Divorcee in short period.
Seeking a well-educated HINDU BRIDE from a like-minded - cultured family who is willing to support him in business. Caste-no-Bar.
Mobile No : +91 80083 16663

Chettiar (shavadosham)/ cast no bar/ 34yrs/M.Tech, LLB/ Own business/5cr property Groom settle in Hyderabad req. girl any Degree. Ph: 6304162893.

DIVORCEE

DIVORCE 43, Hindu Govt Gazetted officer, seeks suitable educated bride caste no bar Ct: 63808 39406

IYER, 2ND Marriage, 44, B.E, Mirugaseerdam, MNC Chennai, Suitable Vegetarian bride wanted. 7418006626

DOCTOR

Wanted Hindu Postgraduate completed Doctor Bride for Chennai based MS General Surgery Employed Doctor Contact 9381098707.

BRIDE WANTED
Leading Pediatrician from Madurai running his own Hospital, seeking Doctor Bride for his Son who is also a Pediatrician , 31 years, 175 cm, Fair, MD., DCH (Gold Medalist - MMC Chennai), hailing from Pillai Community (Caste no bar)
9791541001
9566581680

DOCTOR PARENTS seek educated doctor bride for only doctor son 28 yrs 166 cm (ongoing PG) from educated family. Father Punjabi Mother Interreligion, well settled in Kerala. Financially sound. Contact 9744429371

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM GROOM, (34/182 cms), Slim/ fair from Calicut. B.Tech (Mech) MIT Manipal, MBA HEC Paris. Manager at McKinsey, Dubai. Seeking well-educated bride, preferably in Gulf. Contact: 9292012137, shk.yusuf99@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

CHENNAI SETTLED Nair Boy 29/173, BE,MBA, Mageeram Shudha Jadhagam, Consultant in MNC Chennai. 9840838971

THIYYA 28/170CM B Tech,PGDPP 12L per annum Technical Expert Virtual Production Chennai Settled 9445421968

ENGLISH

TAMIL CATHOLIC Agamudaiyar groom, 29 years, 5'10", Ph.D., Hardware Engineer, Silicon Valley, USA, seeks alliance from a well-educated, good-looking, Catholic girl living in San Francisco or elsewhere in the USA, (Hi–Tech professional or pursuing higher studies) of Tamil origin or other Indian states (caste no bar). +9199446 41506.

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39/169, M.D. Paediatric, Neonatologist, Profession in Trivandrum, Fair, Handsome, Divorce - no kids. seeks Fair Doctor/ Non Medico bride, age 30 to 35. Preferably South India. Caste no bar. 93420 06119, 94433 26119

TAMIL MUSLIM, 30/170, BE Mech, Asst Manager in Auto OEM, Chennai seeks Tamil Muslim bride, Ct: 9444297042

AGE–39, MBBS, MD, Well settled, Bangalore. CSI, Never married. Caste no Bar. 7305460763 / 8754756329

SC, CHRISTIAN, 30, M.Tech, Software Engineer working MNC Chennai, salary Rs.75,000 pm, seeks suitable employed (either working in govt or MNC) Bride. CNB. Ct: 89391 77665

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Kanyakumary District, 27/168, MBBS, MD (Clinical Subject) seeks same sect Doctor PG/Entry (G.M) preferred. Send bio-data. 6381784394/ 9487452271.

TAMIL MUSLIM 28/182 MS Ortho Seeks prof qualified bride Ct : 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

TAMIL YADAVA Boy, M.B.A, 38, Ayilyam, System Er. TCS, Chennai. Rs.60000/-pm. Seeks Yadava bride within TN. Contact through Tamil. Whatsapp : 9965673354 / Cell :7373386474

MUDALIYAR BE 41 Chennai Asst Manager, Private. 1st Marriage. Decent Background 8610518808, 9952010118

MUDALIAR 33/175 MD Pediatrician having Own hospital seeks bride MD/MS Doctor only Ct: 8870616802 / 9443626706

CHETTIAR, 27YRS, 180cm, IT Job Chennai 12LPA. Well Settled (CNB) (7cr) seeks suitable Bride – 94870 33503

TAMIL

HINDU, BRAHMIN 48yrs, Working in Auto Mobile Industry – Chennai, Sal: Rs.1Lakhs per month. 2 Own house in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bride. Ct:–9952040280 / 9486428668

ALLIANCE invited for a Hindu groom, 29 years, financially stable, working in a reputed bank at Chidambaram. Owns an independent house. Seeking a suitable, qualified bride. , Contact – 94866 28729

BALIJA NAIDU (Gavara) Age–29 Siva / Avittam/ Makram–Own HouseShipping co,50k PM–Working Bride. 9092646504

BRIDE WANTED Naidu,28yrs,B.Tech, MBA, civil service background Ph:6385293227

HINDU SC Arunthathiar Jana Kilai 34, TNEB AE Rs.1Lakh Per Month 6379366910

AUDITOR/ 47 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

PILLAI 44 Divorcee M.Com Central Govt service Rs.13.50 lakhs PA seeks bride caste no bar 9094020665

MUDALIAR 42yrs 170cm MCA divorcee well settled in USA. Looking for a Bride employed in USA or India willing to relocate in USA, Cast No bar P-9842079504, 9443263629

HINDU KONGUVELLALA Gounder 39/184, Sadayam, MBA., Job & Business, 48L.PA, Working, Own House, Plots at Chennai. Any Degree, any caste in BC Bride. WhatsApp 9360323979

TAMIL NADU Hindu SC AD 43years BE MBA, Bank Officer 40 lakhs PA legally divorced no child. Seeks alliance between 36 to 41 years divorce without child. Ph: 9443088064

VANNIYAR 35/164 Consultant Psycho–Oncologist Chennai, seeks PG/UG Caste no bar. Ct:9884726806/ 8939522967

HINDU 64 yrs, divorcee, well settled, looking for widow 50 yrs for remarriage. WA 8220822951.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar,28yrs, MCA, Central Govt, Elite business in Chennai Ph:6385293227

MUDALIAR, DIVORCED, Upper middle class, ME, IT professional, looking for a 2nd marriage bride in equal caste from 31-38 without kids. 8138900312

MUDALIAR 35, Divorce BE, MBA, 178cm 30Lacs PA, Smart look Seeks Bride CNB Ct.8778514465, 7200866346

NAIDU 34 B.Tech IT PGDM HR Caterpillar, Chennai Seeks Naidu(Any) Bride Well educated &employed 9444753417

1989 BORN. Pure veg. Separated in 2 weeks. B.Tech & MS(USA). Now working in India. Seeks family oriented educated girl. CNB. Call 7200325130.

39YRS TEETOTALER Divorced Unconsummated Seek Veg Bride Without Kids In Coimbatore Caste No Bar 8220718728

MUDALIAR/NAIDU REMARRIAGE 38 / 170cm MBA Business Chennai Seeks Not working Bride CNB Geetham 9884858014

ENGINEER, 56/180 cms, unmarried, own company in Bangalore, seeks graduate lady below 52. Caste & Religion No bar. Mob: 9008868621.

TAMIL

Konar/Yadav 35 years, Bsc IT, working in IT field, seeks bride. Caste no bar. Contact: 9003595061

SENGUNTHA Mudaliar kettai 31/180 IFS(Forest) Officer, Gujarat, CNB, seeks Doctor Bride. CT: 9443428948.

NAIDU, 29/165, M.E., Design Engr in reputed MNC, own business & rental income, affluent family, Star: Thiruvonam, Rasi: Magaram. Seeking suitable alliance. CNB: 9841097110

SC–AD, 1991, 5'10", M.A., in TN Govt (Group–2a officer, Chennai). A well–educated, wheatish, respectable family and having own house in ECR–Neelankarai and lands in native. Seeking suitable, Chennai employed Adi Dravida, wheatish bride with good family background. 9677042804

29 YEARS 172 cms BCom, PGDM well placed Saiva Pillai groom in Chennai seeks good looking employed girl from educated decent family CNB Ct.9444673783

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 28yrs , MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai Ph: 6385293227

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 28 yrs,B. Tech, MS,SWE 2Lp/m educated family Ph;9841329471/9380791999

MBA (SPAIN) Fair Boy 30/185 Elite, Educated Family. Seeks Fair Beautiful Girl, Caste No bar 9840970170

VANNIAR GROOM 12.06.1982, B.E, M.B.A (Lon), Divorced, No issue. IT Chennai, 16.5 Lakhs/PA. Seeks Bride CNB (OC, BC, M.B.C - Hindu Only) Contact: 9944928521 Vellore.

BANGALORE–BASED HINDU groom, 52 yrs, Height 168cm, MBBS, Doctor, Divorced (1 kid, Not living with him). Caste no bar. Contact: 8220765305

MIDDLE CLASS SC/Adidravida 26 based in Chennai working in private industry. Looking for a family oriented & educated bride, age 22–25 No expectations preferably from chennai,Pondy Caste no bar. Cont.8111000238

HINDU AGAMUDAIYAR 31 /177cm, BE, MNC Chennai Seeks Wkg Girl From Reputed Family. Caste No Bar 9750093375

MUDALIAR 30/182 H.Some, MBA IIM–IT Services Business, ATO 50 Cr, Elite 200.Cr CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BERI CHETTIAR Groom Age30, Divorcee, 2nd Marriage Seeks suitable Bride, No expectations. Ct : 97106 81707

BRAHMIN IYER Boy Magam,32/170cm B.Tech,TCS Chennai.Seeks Brahmin, Graduate girl.Simple Marriage. 9940352807

IYER ASHTASAHS Kasyb divorcee, Barani 40/180, double Masters (India, US) Ph.D (thesis, Germany) Employed Germany seeks qualified unmarried, divorcee short lived marriage No issues bride, employed Europe or Indian willing to relocate Germany. 9444551216/ 8122892822/ 044–26861097

Vadakalai Brahmin Iyengar 40Y Uthiratathi, Meenam working in a pvt shipping firm seeks any Brahmin girl. Email:lalu.as@gmail.com.9940146589

TAMIL

Brahmin Boy 46 yrs only son own house clean habits no mother father Rtd Railway, one sister married seeks bride. Subsect no bar. Ph: 9791453205 / 9962917322

Mudaliyar 1971/170 unmarried B.Com Manager, Pvt 50K, seeks Life Partner, CNB. Ct: 93602 97552 / 98411 90155

MADHWA BRAHMIN Boy, only Son, 27 years/177 cm. BTech. MBA, working in an MNC at Chennai. Looking for girls from any Brahmin community. Contact: 9500028560. Email : ravisramm@gmail.com

Thevar, Advocate, 31, Parents Professionals Only Son Settling in his own Flat after Marriage needs working Professionals. Ct: 80721 51176.

Tamil Muslim, good looking, teetotaler, OCI Card holder, no siblings, very rich, 34, 180 cm, slim, B.A., Business, Have dogs, divorced, no children, non religious. Seeking Educated, preferably working, tall, slim, fair, kind hearted, animal loving Bride from Chennai only. Religion No bar. Contact: 9283331151/ 9840419157

Mudaliar SWE BE PGPML Sr TL 36/170 Bangalore seeks SWE BDS MBBS BArch Bride. Ph-9444176384, umasat26@gmail.com

HINDU Nadar groom 36/5'11"/lean, Super specialist Doctor, Chennai, well settled, divorced, no child. Seeks preferably unmarried, well educated bride under 34yrs. Profession no bar. Contact 95001 27162 /94449 68236

Hindu Adi Dravida, Wheatish 29/169, B.Tech, MS(USA), Working & doing PhD in Switzerland, seeks alliance from Eng / Doctor. Ct: 98402 56157

Fisherman Caste - Parvatharajakulam 26yrs, Chartered Accountant Pvt Company seeks Bride.Ph:9176029539

TELUGU

MCA, AGE 46 Sadhayam star Kumbha rasi Fair software engineer Seeks suitable Bride caste no bar. 9894670293

BRIDE WANTED Naidu,45yrs, divorce, BE Marine in UK, Marine Engineer, Landlord .Ph: 6385293227

NAIDU 34/180CM Fair BE Professional Chennai Seeks Suitable Naidu Bride. Geetham 9884858014

NAIDU 30/188 Handsome, ME Auto–Parts Manufacturing, ATO 70 Cr, Elite 300 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BALIJA NAIDU, 175cm, aged 32, B.Tech, MBA, employed in manufacturing company. Well educated family of service professionals. Contact: 8939758587

Reddiar, 35, Central Government, Divorcee, seeks bride, Contact - 88258 19260

URDU

35 Yrs/ BE/ divorcee working in IT company from a dakhni muslim family based out in Trichy looking for an educated girl (unmarried / divorcee Issueless) Contact : 9841060600.

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

One of the leading companies with 40 YEARS in Infrastructure Segment Manufacturing Components for Bridges & Buildings is looking for
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• SITE ENGINEERS
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Ct: 9384806109

MEDICAL

STAFF NURSE, Echo Technician wanted Fresher/ Experienced Batlagundu. Ct: 72007 20726

TECHNICAL

WANTED CIVIL Autocad Draughtsman @Guindy Contact 9841503733

GENERAL REQUIRED

WANTED USED COMPUTERS
Bulk purchase of Used / Refurbished Desktop Computers, Laptops, Servers and IT Equipment from Software Companies, BPOs, Corporate Offices, Institutions and IT Firms. Immediate pickup and spot payment.
Contact: 8328536946 7999999543

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

WANTED: USED VMC Machines ACE Designers MCV450– 4 Nos. Mfg date: 3–5 years or Newer only. Ct: 9940433466

REAL ESTATE

SELLING

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

CAMBRIDGE MG road near Fully Furnished AC Guest house CCP, Lift, 100% Power Backup. 2150 Sqft, 2.6 Cr. Ct: 97407 14511

THE HINDU

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